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BEST OF 2019

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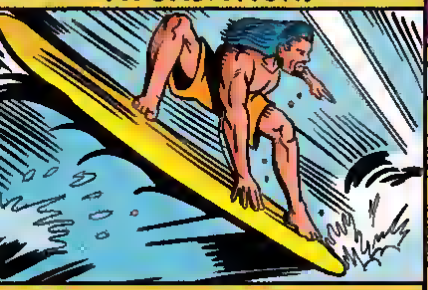
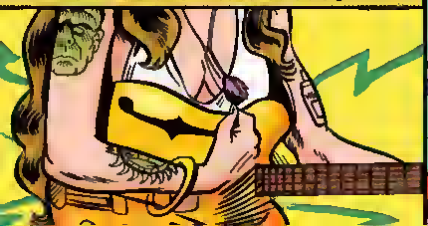
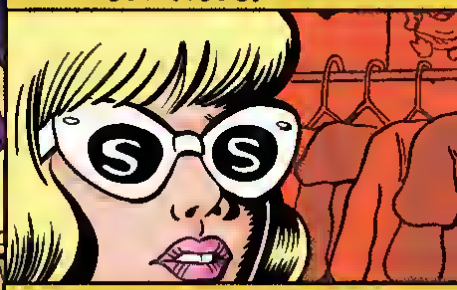


FOOD AND DRINK!

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT!



SHOPPING AND SERVICES!



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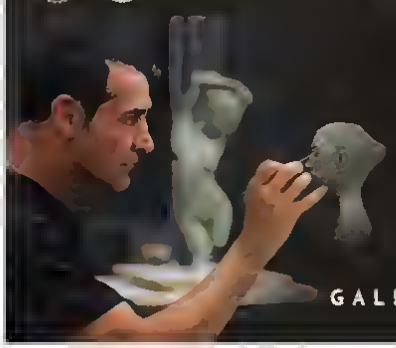

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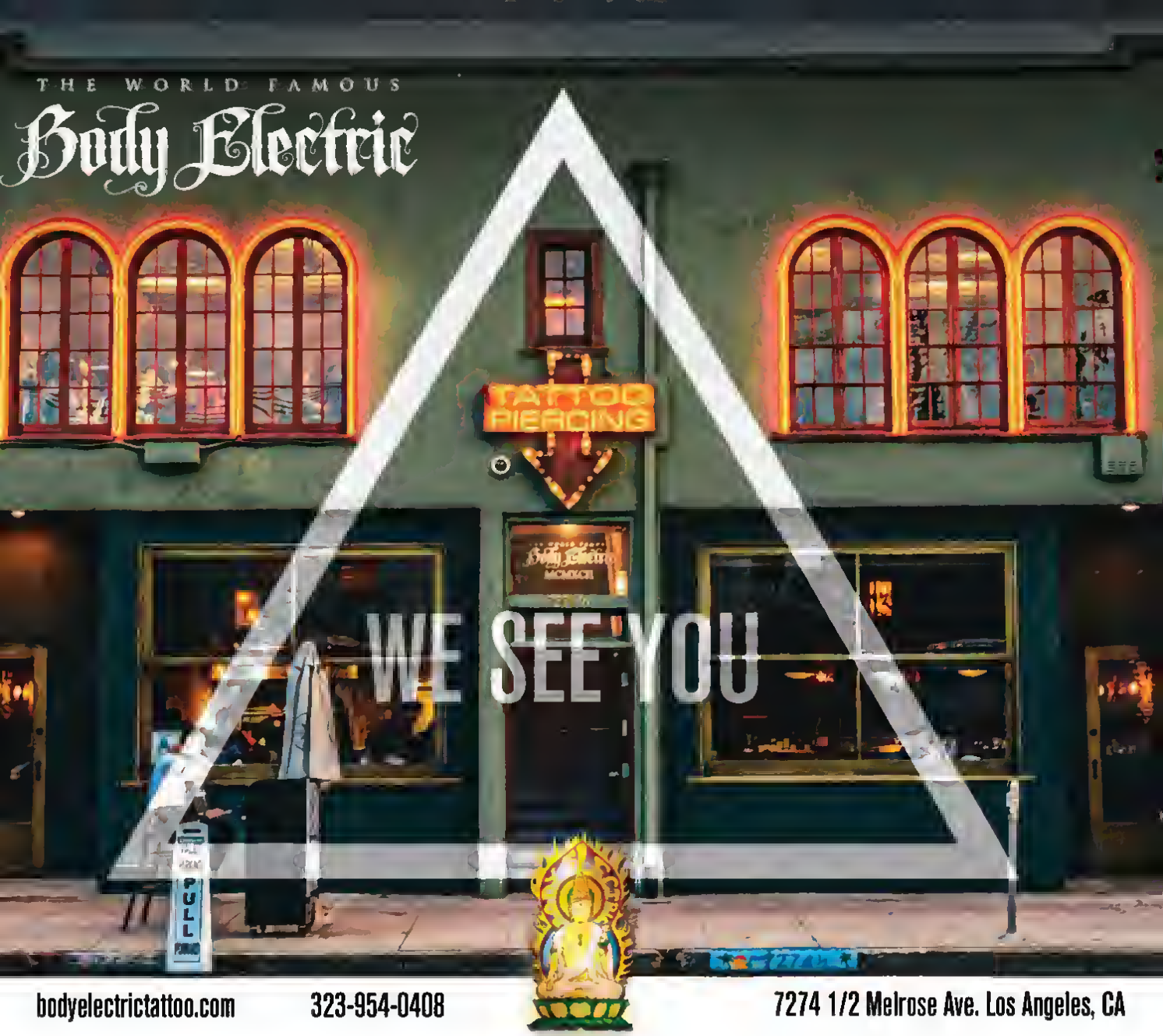

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11/10 DAVID WILCOX
11/13 88.5FM Presents: TIM REYNOLDS and TR3
11/14 JANE MONHEIT
11/15 DAVID BRIGHTON'S SPACE DODITY
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11/21 ALISAN PORTER
11/22 TNE ABSOCIATION
11/23 88.5FM Presents: OZOMATLI
11/24 88.5FM Presents: KATE VOEGELE & TYLER HILTON
11/29 X: XMAS / TNE BLASTENS
11/30 X: XMAS / TNE BLASTERS
12/1 X: XMAS / TNE BLASTENS
12/6 JONNY LANG
12/7 BLUE OYSTEN CULT
12/8 NIGNENGNOUND (Stevie Wonder Tribute)
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ON THE COVER

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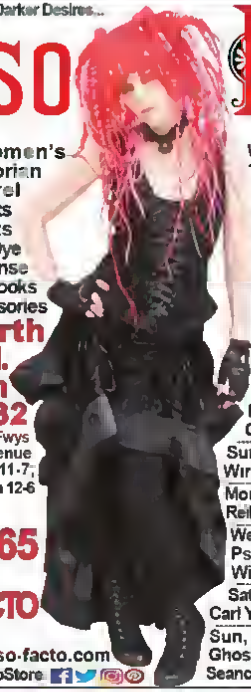
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Mon, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. $10.00 Reiki Share Class Jennifer Morris
Wed, November 20, 7:30 p.m. Psychic Development Class With Shelley Hofberg $20.00
Sat, November 23, 4 - 8:00 p.m. Carl Young Tarot Reader $8 & Up
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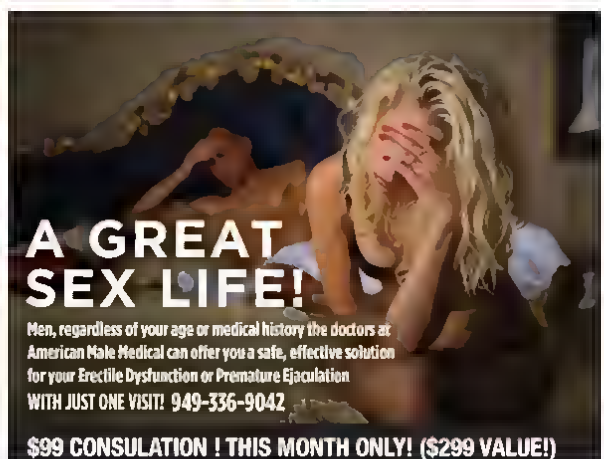
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WELCOME TO BEST OF 2019

One of the best things about this Best of 2019 issue, as was the case in 2018 and on back to our first such collection in 1996, is the informed argument an *OC Weekly* writer routinely makes to justify a selection. Another great part of this Best of 2019 issue, as was the case in 2018 and on back to whenever it was the advertising department strong-armed us into introducing the Readers' Poll, are those audience choices that contradict an *OC Weekly* writer's previous thoughtfulness.

"Really, Weeklng? InCahoots is the Best Place for Country Music/Line Dancing? Well, here's a swift kick from this reader's cowboy boot to underscore that you obviously should have chosen the RANCH Restaurant & Saloon! Now would you kindly remove my Tony Lama from your bumbling bum?"

Face it, we now live in a world in which otherwise-gentle folks can disagree to the point that they seem to exist in different worlds, like Coke and Pepsi drinkers, cats and dognappers, Never Trumpers and ... well, you get the idea. The point is, you had people that were very fine people on both sides.

Which brings us to the very tippy-top best thing about this Best of 2019 issue, as was the case in 2018 and back to blah-blah-blah. The times when our writers and you readers found common ground on selections. It did not happen very often, in fact, it's so infrequent that this year's instances can be cited in this intro: Best Acai Bowl; Best Adult Store; Best Art Gallery; Best Cannabis Lawyer; Best Dispensary in Long Beach; Best Distillery, Best Dog-Friendly Restaurant, Best Downtown, Best Garden, Best Lab Testing; Best Liquor Store; Best Lobster Roll, Best Local Politician/Public Servant; Best Patient Appreciation Day, Best Tincture; and Best Vietnamese Iced Coffee.

You'll notice we only let you in on the categories in which there was agreement between writers and readers in '19, not the actual "winners" (because we're all "winners," Sparky, or at least "worthy recipients of participation trophies") Why divulge the actual selectees here? You want to be surprised, don't you? *Dontcha!?!*

Save your cheat sheet for your driving test because it's better to dive in and discover the one place in this fractured world where people can agree *on something*. And by "place," we mean "paper" and its online bastard cousin. Sure, we may all naturally come together on the universally agreed-upon righteousness of Chris Glew (oops, let one slip), but we can also see, members of the jury of public opinion, that the above list reveals agreements on a wide variety of topics ... in between many, many more disagreements.

Hey, we have to start somewhere. May we suggest page 23? That is, after you spend a goodly amount of time gazing lovingly at each advertisement on the way there. Gotta keep the fights on.

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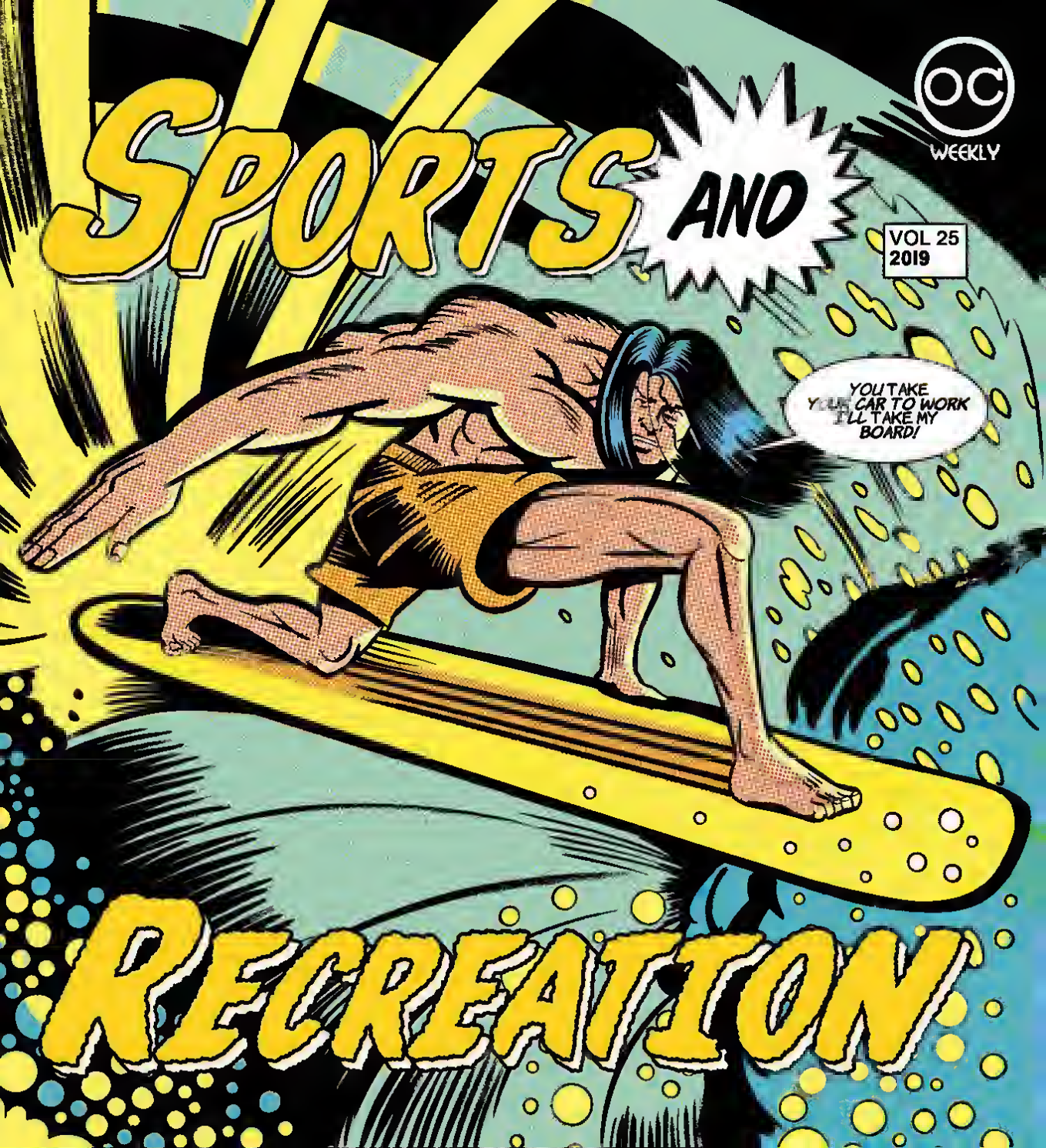
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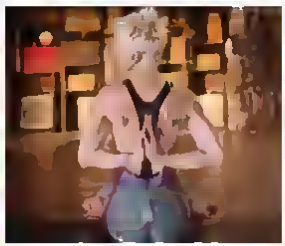

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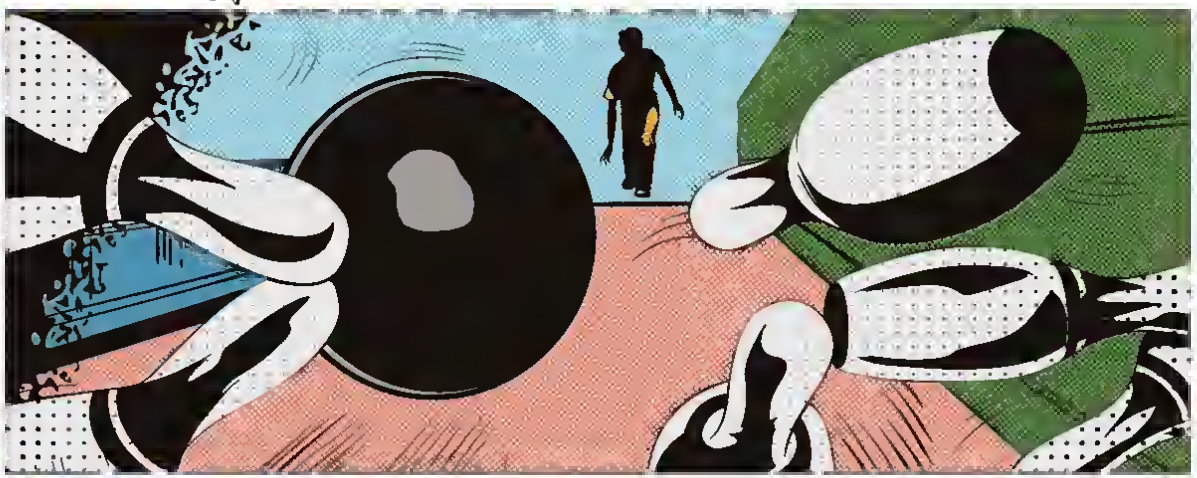
SPORTS AND RECREATION



BEST AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE

HAUNTED MANSION

For the past 50 years, the dark side of Disneyland has called the Haunted Mansion home. The eerie estate at the edge of New Orleans Square greets all who enter its chambers with a mixture of frights and delights from the stretching room to the final departure scene in which a ghost tags along for fun. Narrating the harrowing journey is Paul Frees, the late legend whose rich (and creepy) voice greets visitors with the classic line "Welcome, foolish mortals." A ride not based on a film, the Haunted Mansion gives Disney some of its most enduring characters in Madame Leota, the Hatbox Ghost and, of course, the trio of Hitchhiking Ghosts. Cue the jazzy graveyard jam "Grim Grinning Ghosts," and it's easy to see why this ride has become a spiritual center for Bat Days—though you don't have to be a Goth kid to enjoy a spin in a doom buggy!

1313 DISNEYLAND DR., ANAHEIM. (714) 781-4636. WWW.DISNEYLAND.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SPACE MOUNTAIN, DISNEYLAND

BEST ANGELS PLAYER

TOMMY LA STELLA

At the end of June, Tommy La Stella, obtained during the winter for "future considerations," was one of the biggest surprises in Major League Baseball. He had hit 16 home runs, nearly twice as many as he'd had in his first five years, amassed a .495 slugging percentage, and been chosen as a reserve second baseman for the American League All Star team. Not bad for a 30-year-old guy who'd mostly been a pinch hitter for the Braves and Cubs. But then he fouled a 97 mph fastball off his shin on July 2, fracturing his right tibia. He hasn't been seen since. Not the biggest heartbreak to befall the Halos this year (that would be Tyler Skaggs' death and the fact that Albert Pujols' contract doesn't expire until after the 2021 season), but still unfortunate.

READERS' CHOICE: MIKE TROUT

BEST BEACH

1000 STEPS BEACH

At the bottom of a steep, lengthy stairway awaits the perfect Orange County escape. With more than 400 yards of pristine white sand, this beach is a favorite year-round. At low tide, visitors can explore a number of creature-filled tide pools. And if the tide is right, beach dwellers can check out a popular cave located on the far end of the shore.

31972 COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH.

READERS' CHOICE: LAGUNA BEACH

BEST BOOT CAMP

BURN BOOT CAMP

No matter what stage you're at in terms of fitness, it's hard to find a workout routine that is sustainable and prevents burnout from doing the same boring exercises over and over again. At Burn Boot Camp, all your calorie-burning needs can be satisfied via fun yet intense, fast-paced workouts. In addition to the 10 boot-camp classes held throughout any given weekday, there are also "focus meetings" with trainers to discuss nutrition habits and personal milestones.

2675 IRVINE AVE., COSTA MESA. (949) 423-7249. BURNBOOTCAMP.COM/LOCATIONS/COSTA-MESA-CA/

READERS' CHOICE: 9 ROUND FITNESS

BEST BOWLING ALLEY

CONCOURSE BOWLING ALLEY

Though Concourse Bowling Alley has been around almost three decades, its owners keep things modern, offering great food, thanks to the renowned chefs creating the menu, and a full bar, with special beer-appreciation nights involving local breweries. For traditionalists, Concourse also offers league bowling on its 40 synthetic lanes, but the family-owned alley is really just a great place for birthdays, private parties, and rocking and bowling with friends.

3364 E. LA PALMA AVE., ANAHEIM. (714) 666-2695. WWW.CONCOURSEBOWLING.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: FOUNTAIN BOWL

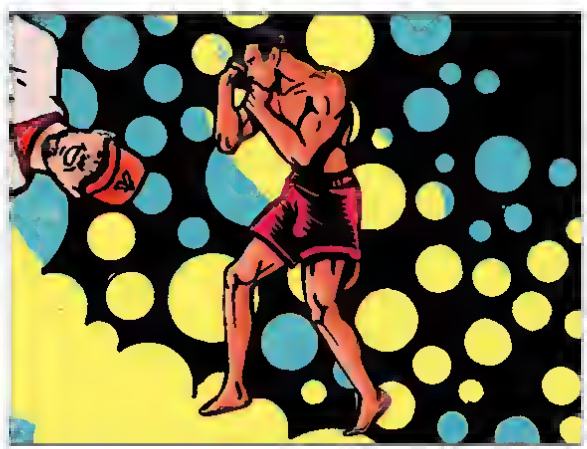
BEST DAY TRIP

SALTON SEA

Depending on where exactly you live and what time you decide to jump on the freeway, it will take you about three hours to get to the Salton Sea. It's worth it, though—not because you're journeying to a lush, desert oasis (you're not), but because you're embarking on an expedition to another world. The high-salinity lake (which is also full of agricultural runoff) was formed accidentally in 1905 and is now home to many birds, fascinating geology and park rangers, which is good because you'll likely have a ton of questions, including: "What's that foam on the water?" "Why are there so many dead fish on the shore?" "How can people live here?" Nearby is the International Banana Museum (housing more than 20,000 banana-related items!), the massive art sculptures of Borrego Springs and the brightly painted rocks of Salvation Mountain.

NORTH MARINA DRIVE AND SEA GARDEN AVENUE, SALTON CITY

READERS' CHOICE: CATALINA ISLAND



SPORTS AND RECREATION

BEST DIVE SHOP

ORANGE COUNTY SCUBA CENTER

Offering gear, lessons and a Dive Club that meets monthly, Orange County Scuba Center is most surprising in its location not being steps from the sea, but rather miles Other than the ocean, everything you need is there, including air fills, dive equipment to buy or rent, and a professional team with more than 50 years of combined diving experience. These dive masters can get you properly fitted to ensure you are comfortable in and out of the water—and then certified to dive The shop even charters trips down the freeway or to far-off shores

360 S TUSTIN ST., ORANGE, (714) 997-5506, OCSCUBACENTER.COM

READERS' CHOICE: SCUBA.COM

BEST DOG PARK

PETERS CANYON

It's not a dog park per se, but the regional OC Parks' wilderness area does allow pooches so long as they are on a leash that is at most 6 feet long. Once hitched up and mirroring the pace of the human being walked, Fido can marvel at lush greenery and wildflowers; well-maintained trails; and a lake lined with graceful willows, towering sycamores and rare black cottonwoods. There are poop bags and water troughs near the ranger station and spots for both canines and humans to grab seats along a 2.5-mile loop. But be aware that snakes live within Peters Canyon's 354 acres, as do coyotes, bobcats and even the occasional mountain lion.

8548 E. CANYON VIEW AVE., ORANGE, 714) 973-6611; OCPARKS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: HUNTINGTON BEACH DOG PARK

BEST DUCKS PLAYER

RICKARD RAKELL

You had to go back to when the Ducks were so bad they still had Mighty in their name to find a team that was worse offensively than last year's 196-goal squad. And considering the 248 goals allowed were the team's highest this century, as well as the third highest in franchise history, not much went right. But that didn't stop the Swedish-born Rickard Rakell from pacing the squad in goals for the two consecutive years. Yes, the 18 were his lowest in four years, but with longtime winger Corey Perry's departure to Dallas and a bunch of prospects waiting in the wings, franchise cornerstone center Ryan Getzlaf may be looking even more for the dependable Rakell this season.

READERS' CHOICE: RYAN GETZLAF

BEST GARDEN

FULLERTON ARBORETUM

Located on the northeast corner of Cal State Fullerton, the Fullerton Arboretum offers 26 acres of beautiful botanical gardens. In additon to the California-native foliage, there are plants from all over the world, cared for by a knowledgeable staff, college students and local residents who have run out of (or have no) garden space. Several events are held at the large facility, including yoga nights, brew nights and free nature tours, and volunteer options are always in bloom.

1900 ASSOCIATED RD., FULLERTON, (657) 278-3407, FULLERTONARBORETUM.ORG

READERS' CHOICE: FULLERTOH ARBORETUM

BEST GOLF COURSE

DAD MILLER GOLF COURSE

This venerable course is definitely the best place to walk in the steps of a legend. And we're not talking Tiger Woods, who grew up playing here. We're referring to Harold George "Dad" Miller, a Kentucky native who worked for years for the electric company before retiring during World War II. He convinced some friends in the city to build a course on some flat land northwest of Disneyland, and in 1961, Anaheim Municipal opened. Nine years later, Miller (whose son designed the course), aced the par-3 10th hole at age 93, becoming the oldest man to ever officially record a hole-in-one. Five years later, the course was named after him, and he is reported to have played it right up to his death in 1979 at age 102

430 H. GILBERT ST., ANAHEIM, (714) 765-3481 WWW.DADMILLERGC.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PELICAN HILL

BEST GYM

EQUINOX IRVINE

Whether your fitness goals are to achieve marathon-readiness or just to take a few classes each week, Equinox Irvine is your place. The 120,000-square-foot facility includes a full-sized basketball court, a rooftop training center and a 25-yard swimming pool, plus there are poolside cabanas to relax in after your workout, a fully equipped spa and a cafe. Though membership is on the pricey side—starting at $180 per month—it is well worth it for everything offered, including 122 different classes per week. Equinox has several sports clubs throughout Orange and Los Angeles counties, but the Irvine location exceeds all gym-rat expectations

1980 MAIN ST., IRVINE, (949) 975-8400, WWW.EQUINOX.COM/CLUBS/SOUTHERN-CALIFORNIA/ORANGE-COUNTY/ORANGECOUNTY

READERS' CHOICE: 9 ROUND FITNESS

BEST LOCAL SKATER

OMAR HASSAN

Omar Hassan has been inspiring everyone in the skate world for as long as most of us can remember with his no-holds-barred approach to pools, streets, parks and whatever else is in his way. Despite suffering from some of the worst slams in skateboarding history—Google "Omar downtown showdown"—Hassan continues to push himself and the rest of the industry. Born at Newport Beach's Hoag Hospital in 1973, he's long been loyal to local companies Vans, Volcom, Black Label, Jokers Skate Shop and more. When he isn't touring the world or finding a new spot to skate, you can probably find him surfing off 45th Street in Newport Beach. Give him a beer and a high-five for us

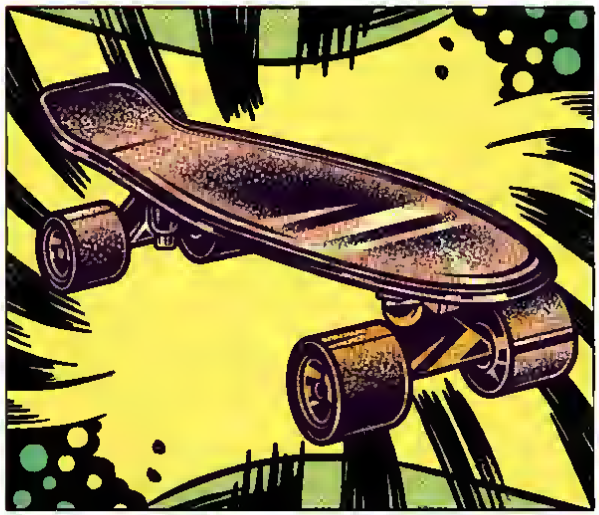
READERS' CHOICE: HEATH KIRCHART

BEST LOCAL SURFER

COURTNEY CONLOGUE

Santa Ana's Courtney Conlogue came *thisclose* to becoming a back-to-back Vans U.S. Open women's champion in August. Alas, she was edged out by Ventura's Sage Erickson. But the showing proves Conlogue remains at the top of her game. Maintaining a strong work ethic, gritty determination and acceptance of nothing short of perfection has kept the 26-year-old atop leader boards for more than five years. Of course, that's old hat for the 5-foot-8 blonde, who at age 11 became the youngest athlete ever selected to the USA Junior Surf Team.

READERS' CHOICE: KELLY SLATER



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Concerts are $30 after the last race.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

BEST MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY MARTIAL ARTS

Intense workout. Self-discipline. Focus. Respect. Learning how to beat someone's ass (and protecting your own and others'). You'd find that at any decent martial arts studio, but what separates North Orange County Martial Arts (NOCMA) from your neighborhood McDojo (where volume and making money is the main gig) is scale. Its membership usually hovers around 35, and classes rarely top 10 students. That means personalized attention for everyone in the kids' kung fu san soo and MMA classes, as well as adult MMA and Brazilian jiu jitsu classes. (Intensive 30-minute boot camp sessions are also offered.) Speaking of kids, NOCMA is one of only two facilities in OC certified by the organization that runs youth-competitive MMA-style (known as youth Pankration) tournaments in California.

324I ASSOCIATED RD., FULLERTON, (888) 508-5758, WWW.NOCMARTIALARTS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: MERCADO MUAY THAI

BEST NATURE TRAIL

BACK BAY LOOP

This 10.5-mile trail around Upper Newport Bay is a beautiful hike, though you're never really out of sight of expensive homes. Here, the freshwater from San Diego Creek mixes with the salty Back Bay, sustaining a huge variety of plant life, which in turn supports more than 200 species of birds, many of which are endangered (and may soon become extinct now that the Trump administration is gutting the Endangered Species Act). You can find ospreys, ducks, grebes, black skimmers, western sandpipers, marbled godwits and great blue herons in Upper Newport Bay. The trail is also rather tranquil, unless a jet's departing from John Wayne Airport, in which case the noise is ear-splitting. Even in the summer, it's not too hot, and we've always thought walking by the water is more pleasurable than in the mostly dry mountains and canyons.

600 SHELLMAKER RD., NEWPORT BEACH

READERS' CHOICE: CRYSTAL COVE

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

EISENHOWER PARK

Thanks to several shady spots throughout the large grounds, Eisenhower Park is a great place to look at nature and spend time with your family. Beautiful foliage offers wonderful spots to pose for photos, and there's even ducks, multiple bodies of water and other features. Fish for (and release) catfish or giant bass that have lived in the lake for years, or get close to a crawdad or turtle. Two playgrounds create a fun place to bring kids, while several hills make hikes more challenging.

2864 N. TUSTIN ST., ORANGE, (714) 744-7274, WWW.CITYOFORANGE.ORG/FACILITIES/FACILITY/DETAILS/EISENHOWER-PARK-AND-LAKE-20

READERS' CHOICE: IRVINE REGIONAL PARK

BEST NONPROFIT

DAYLE MCINTOSH CENTER

More than four decades ago, some of Orange County's most unheralded civil-rights heroes set out to establish an independent-living center for people with disabilities. When they did so in 1977, the Dayle McIntosh Center, named for one such activist who passed away before its opening, ensured the county would become more accessible curb cut by curb cut. Brenda Premo, an early leader, played a pivotal role in advocating for the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. These days, the Dayle McIntosh Center in Anaheim is headed by Paula Margeson, a seasoned veteran of the disability-rights movement. The peer-based nonprofit offers weekend youth classes at the Anaheim Accessibility Center in addition to several other services in the realms of advocacy, transition and skills training. The Dayle McIntosh Center continues to echo the slogan "Nothing about us without us!"

501 N. BROOKHURST ST., STE 102, ANAHEIM, (714) 621-3300; WWW.DAYLEMC.COM

READERS' CHOICE: GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY

BEST PLACE TO PLAY POOL

MCFADDEN SQUARE

There are about 62,729 places to play pool in Orange County—four of which are located within McFadden Square in Newport Beach. Since they're practically next door to each other at the beach, if you get hustled, you can always go outside and soak up some of that salty Newport sea spray before moving on to the next table. If you're looking for something classy, there's Stag Bar, but if you're not, head to Beach Ball, Blackie's and Mutt Lynch's fit kind of in between.

BEACH BALL, 2116 W. OCEANFRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-8041; BEACHBALLBAR.COM; BLACKIE'S, 2118 W. OCEANFRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-1074, BLACKIESBAR.COM; MUTT LYNCH'S, 2300 W. OCEANFRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-1556, MUTTLYNCHS.COM; STAG BAR, 121 MCFADDEN PLACE, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 673-4470; STAGBAR.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE COPPER DOOR

BEST PUB TRIVIA

HUNTINGTON BEACH TRIVIA PUB CRAWL

Trivia lovers, rejoice! Presented by Trivia and We Love Pub Crawls, this event offers a night of bar hopping, fun games and prizes. Crawls happen on an almost monthly basis and are themed to various bingable TV shows such as *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation*. Throughout the night, participating bars along Main Street offer drink specials that match the night's theme. Free souvenir tees are given out, but costumes are encouraged (and there's a contest at the end). A special lanyard allows you to connect to other trivia crawlers using your smartphone. Three rounds of 25 questions are hosted at various bars, with first-, second- and third-place prizes given to winners. The night closes out with '80s or '90s dance parties.

TRIVIACRAWL.COM; WELOVEPUBCRAWLS.COM; WWW.CRUISERSPIZZABARGRILL.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: MUTT LYNCH'S

BEST SPORTSCASTER

PHIL HULETT

Sure, a public-address announcer isn't a sportscaster in the sense the voice doesn't get out of the building, but considering Phil Hulett has called every goal and player's name—even the legendary Maxim Balmochnyk's in 2000—at nearly every Ducks' home game since 1996, his voice has certainly been cast to a broad audience. And it's not limited to Anaheim, for 16 years, Hulett worked at the now-defunct KFWB news radio, spent 2017 to '18 as a traffic anchor for KNX, is currently a national news anchor for NBC News Radio, and—get this—was the promo voice and DJ Philphy Phil at KNAC-FM 105.5, Long Beach's (and Dominguez Hills') memorable run at a heavy-metal radio station from 1986 to 1995.

WWW.PHILHULLET.COM

READERS' CHOICE: CHICK HEARN (RIP)

BEST SURF SPOT

THE WEDGE

To us, the Wedge was always the star of *Endless Summer*. "The dirty old Wedge," narrator/filmmaker Bruce Brown calls it in the film, "where you catch waves you didn't even want." The Wedge was legendary even back then, as the late Brown makes more than clear in the 1966 documentary. "Few people ride belly boards at the Wedge," Brown says. "Body surfing is bad enough because when you get wiped out, it feels like your arms, legs and head are all going different directions. Add a belly board to that mess, and it's like an extra piece of shrapnel in a hand grenade." Maybe we're just nostalgic. Or maybe we like watching people jump headfirst into a washing machine, not really knowing what the spin cycle will do to their spines. Or maybe we just miss our friend Chris, who was in the water at the Wedge so often it qualified as a second home. RIP, Chris.

READERS' CHOICE: HUNTINGTON BEACH

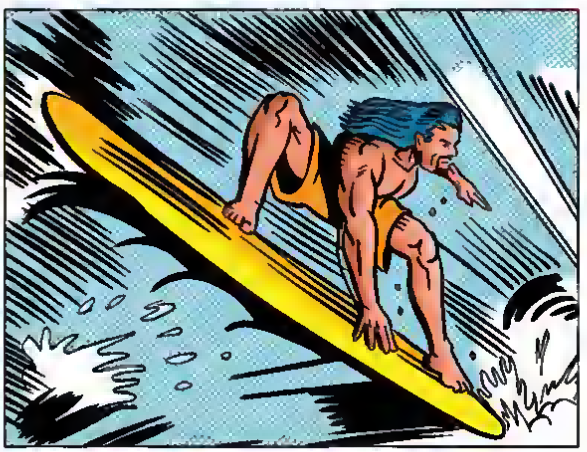
BEST YOGA

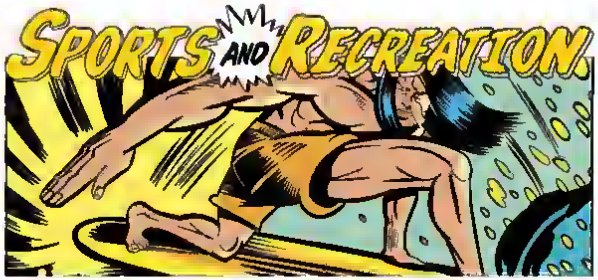
SPECTRA YOGA

Do you even Vinyasa, bro? If you think you can get your chakras aligned just right at just any yoga place, think again. The folks at Spectra Yoga are trained to soothe sore and achy muscles, but they also know how to make each session challenging enough for a sweaty, good workout. Whether you're a seasoned yogi or just bought your first yoga mat at Daiso, you'll feel the burn and decompress away the stress. Spectra also offers the most types of yoga, from aerial to hot yoga to full-body workouts to something called yogalates (dance-themed yoga set to house or funk music). Whatever your jam, the place leaves you pumped to take on more in life. *Namaste*, indeed!

2701 HARBOR BLVD., STE E-1, COSTA MESA, (714) 436-0576, SPECTRAYOGA.COM

READERS' CHOICE: HARD YOGA





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1313 DISNEYLAND DR., ANAHEIM, (714) 781-4636, DISNEYLAND.DISNEY.GO.COM.

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MIKE TROUT
WWW.MLB.COM/ANGELS.

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LAGUNABEACHINFO.ORG.

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MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, WWW.9ROUND.COM.

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17110 BROOKHURST ST., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, (714) 963-7888; FOUNTAINBOWL.COM.

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CATALINA ISLAND
WWW.VISITCATALINAISLAND.COM.

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18000 GOLDENWEST ST., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 536-5511; HUNTINGTONBEACHCA.GOV/RESIDENTS/PARKS_FACILITIES/PARKS/HUNTINGTON_CENTRAL_PARK/DOG_PARK.CFM

BEST DUCKS PLAYER
RYAN GETZLAF
WWW.NHL.COM/DUCKS.

BEST GARDEN
FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED RD., FULLERTON, (657) 278-3407, FULLERTONARBORETUM.ORG.

BEST GOLF COURSE
PELICAN HILL
22701 S. PELICAN HILL RD., NEWPORT COAST, (855) 315-8214, PELICANHILL.COM.

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MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, WWW.9ROUND.COM.

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HEATH KIRCHART

BEST LOCAL SURFER
KELLY SLATER
WWW.KSWAVECO.COM.

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8471 PACIFIC COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-3539, CRYSTALCOVESTATEPARK.ORG.

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IRVINE REGIONAL PARK
1 IRVINE PARK RD., ORANGE, (714) 973-6835, OCPARKS.COM/IRVINEPARK.

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410 N. FAIRVIEW ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 541-6531; WWW.OCGOODWILL.ORG.

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225 1/2 N. BROADWAY, SANTA ANA, (714) 696-1479; THECOPPERDOORBAR.COM

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2300 W. OCEANFRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-1556, MUTTLYNCHS.COM

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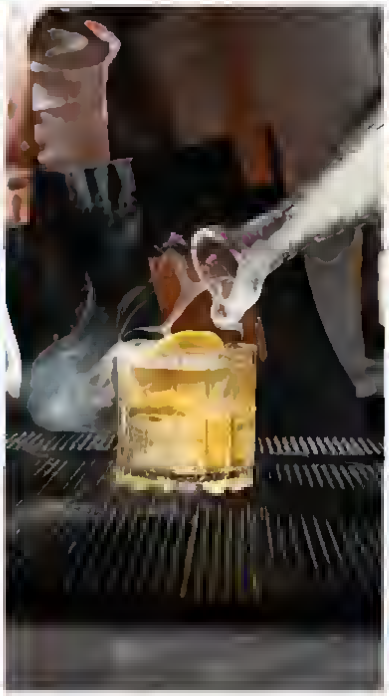

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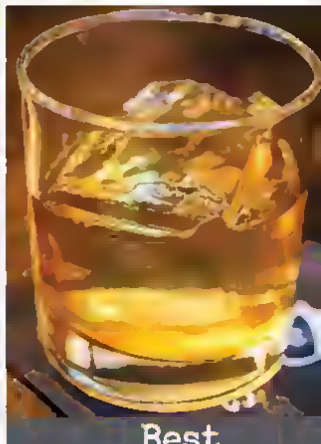

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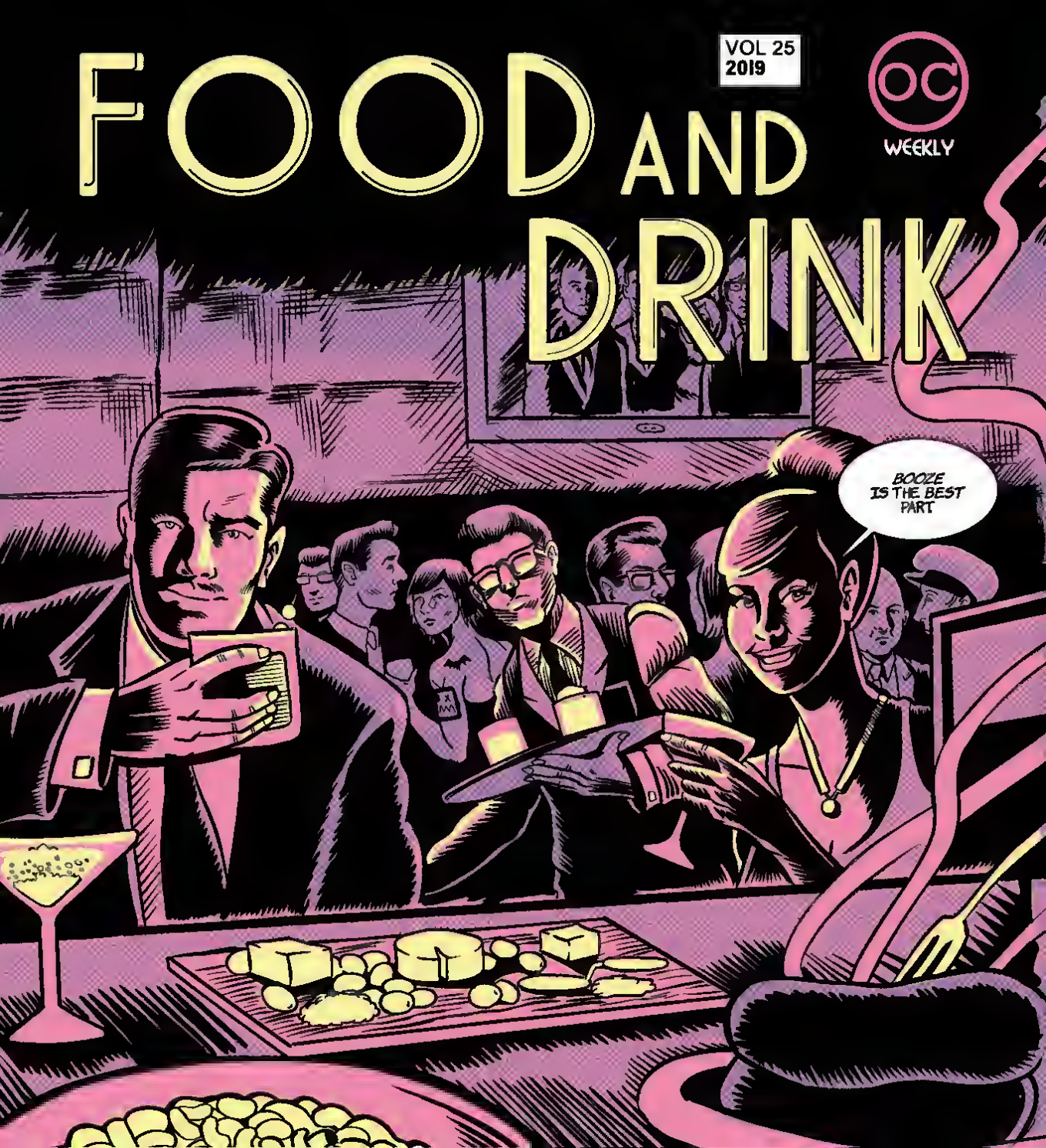

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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST ACAI BOWLS

BANZAI BOWLS

With a wide variety of toppings and clean ingredients, Banzai Bowls serves up acai meals that taste too good to be healthy.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; BANZAIBOWLS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: BANZAI BOWLS

BEST BAGELS

SHIRLEY'S BAGELS

This local institution has been churning out traditional boil-and-bake bagels for 33 years, which has to count for something, right? With soft, robust, chewy bagels made fresh throughout the day, customers should be prepared to wait in line, but you'll be rewarded with a delicious everything, plus schmear.

270 E. 17TH ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 645-7877; ALSO AT 303 S. BROADWAY ST., STE. 108, LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-6296, AND 3601 JAMBOREE RD., STE. 19, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 851-1920; WWW.SHIRLEYSBAGELS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: SHIRLEY'S BAGELS

BEST BAKERY

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CAKE

When it comes to baking, It's All About the Cake definitely takes the cake (pun intended). From cupcakes to petit fours to mini pies, the desserts here are uniform in perfection. But the cakes are truly showstoppers. The carrot cake especially contains the ideal balance of sweet, moist and delicate.

24921 DANA POINT HARBOR DR., STE. B100, DANA POINT, (949) 240-7100; WWW.ITSALLABOUTTHECAKE.COM

READERS' CHOICE: BLACKMARKET BAKERY

BEST BAR FOR DANCING

THE CONTINENTAL ROOM

Although this place has (rightfully) earned a reputation as one of the county's top venues for rowdy indie-rock bands, it also hosts some equally wild dance parties. From the monthly Funk Night to hip-hop events and even Top 40 club nights, the Continental Room's intimate dance floor is almost always packed. Its vintage atmosphere and low lighting seem to invite guests to get down like nobody's watching. Perhaps the oldest bar in Fullerton can teach some of the county's newer clubs a thing or two about how to throw a grade-A dance party.

115 W. SANTA FE AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 526-4529; WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CONTINENTALROOM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE RANCH RESTAURANT & SALOON

BEST BAR IN LONG BEACH

THE BAMBOO CLUB

Opened back in March, the Bamboo Club is still the most buzzworthy bar in Long Beach. What was for years the grimy Liquid Lounge is now a kitschy, moody, even romantic tiki bar. Go early and snag one of the semi-private huts, or saddle up to the bar for a front-row seat on live-music nights. There's a creative, smallish food menu (tea-brined fried-chicken sandwiches! Oysters of the day!), but the drinks are the star here: complex, tropical-hued craft cocktails, including painkillers and zombies as good as they come—plus, the banana daiquiris are not only tart and delicious, but also dangerously easy to knock back.

3522 ANAHEIM ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 343-2534

READERS' CHOICE: JOE JOST'S

BEST BARBECUE

LEADBELLY'S BARBECUE

This 'cue gives the county a kick—and it's not just the spicy homemade sauce slathered over all the hog and cow Leadbelly's Barbecue heaps on plates! Don't let the compact quarters fool you. Leadbelly's is big on flavor, everything from the tender tri-tip and brisket to the sausage that emerge from its humble yet mighty smoker. The loaded pork-belly garlic fries make any other piled-on frites seem skimpy. Pair any main course with sides such as the jalapeño mac and cheese, hush puppies, and creamed corn, then prepare to call for a stretcher to wheel you out. After that, don't feel alone in singing the Leadbelly blues until your next trip out.

711 N. PLACENTIA AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 616-9560

READERS' CHOICE: HERITAGE BARBECUE

BEST BARTENDER

LUIS DEL POZO

Orange County's best-kept secret is no longer tucked away inside the AC Hotel Irvine. Having joined the soon-to-open Gracias Madre as bar manager, Luis Del Pozo has it all: a great palate, a fantastic personality, great hustle and a bow tie.

GRACIAS MADRE, 1617 WESTCLIFF DR., STE. 112, NEWPORT BEACH; GRACIASMADREWEHO.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: RAVIN BUZZELL AT CDM RESTAURANT

BEST BEER SELECTION

THE LA PALMA BEER TRAIL

From the O.G. Bruery at Dunn Way that opened 11 years ago all the way to Honey Pot Meadery, there are now almost a dozen breweries along a 6-mile stretch on La Palma Avenue in Placentia and Anaheim. Considering the average brewery contains around 20 taps, there's easily more than 300 beers from vastly different producers, all waiting for some proper beer tasting and perhaps a crowler to go. On the trail, you'll find the Bruery, Phantom Ales, Asylum, Bottle Logic, Brewery X, Bruery Terreux, Stereo, the Beer Co., All-American Brew Works and Honey Pot. Who will open up next?

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG

BEST BIKINI BAR

DEVA'S

It doesn't get much more old-school than Deva's, a dive bar tucked away in Tustin's El Camino Plaza, where a friendly crew of scantily clad bartenders are ready to serve you. The relaxed ambiance draws in a humble, working-class crowd and nixes all pretensions of today's hip, modern dives. It remains a hidden gem, with its cheap drink prices, early-morning happy hour specials and personable staff, who make great conversation and bring just the right amount of lovable sass. The shape of the bar separates the pool tables and dart boards from the bar, granting patrons ample space to enjoy their night as they'd like.

672 EL CAMINO REAL, TUSTIN, (714) 731-9900; FACEBOOK.COM/DEVASCOCKTAILS.

READERS' CHOICE: GREEN GIRL SALOON

BEST BOBA

BOBA JUNKIE

Offering fresh boba, cold drinks, smoothies and slushies, Boba Junkie is addicting! Traditional flavors such as Thai tea and house Earl Grey make it easy for first-time customers to find something familiar. The café's tea selection focuses on sweet floral flavors such as jasmine and lavender, both of which pair well with the warm brown sugar boba. Whether it's rainbow jelly or horchata foam, there's no shortage of toppings options. Boba Junkie is also an active part of the community, providing fundraising opportunities for the area's schools and organizations.

1200 W. WARNER AVE., STE. B, SANTA ANA, (714) 486-3022; WWW.BOBAJUNKIE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: TASTEA

FOOD AND DRINK

BEST BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST REPUBLIC

Tucked into UC Irvine-adjacent University Town Center is this hardcore morning spot. Get your eggy preferences on while sipping on an appropriately caffeinated and/or boozy drink. And contemplating Breakfast Republic's creative monthly specials is a must.

4213 CAMPUS DR., IRVINE, (949) 379-7177, WWW.BREAKFASTREPUBLIC.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY

BEST BREAKFAST BURRITO

TROY'S DRIVE-IN

Looking for a breakfast burrito larger than your forearm? Look no further than Troy's Drive-In! The kitchen fills giant burritos with your choice of simple yet delicious breakfast ingredients. The results may seem daunting, but the awesome flavor gives you the motivation to eat yourself into a food coma. Just make sure you get there before breakfast ends at 11:30 a.m.

404 LINCOLN AVE., ORANGE, (714) 637-8631.

READERS' CHOICE: MIGUEL'S JR.

BEST BRUNCH

MARCHÉ MODERNE

The long-standing brand finally launched the most decadent, non-hotel Sunday menu we've encountered in a while. If splurging is your goal, theow down for that caviar supplement, Russian king crab leg or roasted Angus beef filet add-on. Marché Moderne's brunch is super-bougie—and we mean that in the best possible way.

7862 E. PACIFIC COAST HWY., NEWPORT BEACH, (714) 434-7900, MARCHEMODERNE.NET.

READERS' CHOICE: TREVOR'S AT THE TRACKS

BEST BUFFET

MOTHER INDIA

When your lunchtime hunger pangs kick in, your best option to fill up is at a buffet. And Mother India is there to greet you with open arms and comforting foods. The cozy Costa Mesa eatery boasts a carefully curated buffet, with mildly spicy curries, tender tandoor dishes and fanciful biryanis. And don't forget the naan, you'll need something to mop up all the delicious sauces that pool on your plate. Somehow, they all taste great separately and together—just like they should.

688 BAKER ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 668-9661; WWW.MOTHERINDIAOC.COM.

BEST BURGER

UMAMI BURGER

While all the burgers at Umami Burger are great, there's no question its BBQ Pitmaster is not only its finest burger, but also that in all of Orange County. It starts with coating a beef patty with an exquisite espresso dry rub—let's repeat those words for those in the back: espresso dry rub. That's topped with slaw, salsa verde, jalapeño, okra pickles, and a generous slathering of the house barbecue sauce and miso mustard. This isn't a burger you eat, it's one you devour.

338 S. ANAHEIM BLVD., ANAHEIM, (714) 991-8626, ALSO AT 2981 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 957-8626, AND 527 SPECTRUM CENTER DR., IRVINE, (949) 396-1830; UMAMIBURGER.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: IN-N-OUT BURGER

BEST BURRITO

TACO ADOBE

Few other burrito joints in Orange County have mastered rolling together three simple ingredients so deliciously and with such generous portions. Pound for pound, Taco Adobe's bean-and-

cheese burrito is the best in Orange County thanks to its flawless execution of the fairly simple, as well as the price, coming in at just $8.95.
121 N. LEMON ST., ORANGE, (714) 628-0633.
READERS' CHOICE: AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

BEST BUTCHER SHOP

ELECTRIC CITY BUTCHER

Over the past four years, Electric City Butcher has been part of a larger conversation between chefs, farmers and restaurants to create a more humane, sustainable model for meat production. It supplies quality cuts to Santa Ana eateries such as Lola Gaspar, Alta Baja, Vacation and Chapter One, the modern local, as well as the Whole30-approved delivery service Model Meals, but you can check it out in person at its 4th Street Market spot.
201 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 474-9096, WWW.ELECTRICCITYBUTCHER.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: THE BUTCHERY QUALITY MEATS

BEST CATERING SERVICE

CANYON CATERING

Taking the social pressure out of planning events by being a full-service catering company with reasonable pricing, Canyon Catering offers a delicious menu and beautiful decor that are sure to liven up any gathering, whether it's a small birthday party or a corporate event. Plus, its down-to-earth staff are sure to make your events special without feeling overly elite.
540 W. FREEDOM AVE., ORANGE, (714) 970-7777, WWW.CANYONCATERING.NET
READERS' CHOICE: SAPPHIRE CATERING

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

NEW MOON RESTAURANT

A new moon is usually a time for contemplation and change. But in Buena Park, New Moon is the best place to get stuffed on Chinese food. When Porto's moved into the Entertainment Zone on Beach Boulevard, it had a bigger plot than it knew what to do with. Thankfully, it decided to share space with this contemporary-Chinese restaurant chain that leaves pretenders in the dust. Any shrimp-based dish is destined to delight, whether the insatiably plump shellfish is served garlicky on a bed of spinach or with candy-glazed walnuts. Other Americanized offerings on the menu will be familiar in name, but enjoyed with new appreciation for how tastefully they come out of the kitchen. And at the end of your meal comes a fortune cookie drizzled in chocolate. Any guiding wisdom inside it is an added bonus.
7260 BEACH BLVD., BUENA PARK, (714) 562-9940, WWW.NEWMOONRESTAURANTS.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: PEKING DRAGON

BEST CHEESE SHOP

THE CELLAR

A large, refrigerated display case just off the Cellar's front entrance is filled with a variety of domestic and imported cheeses, from Châllerhocker and Harbison to fromages you've never heard of. But the Cellar is more than rodent heaven, as it also features artisan meats, sausages, bread, crackers, condiments and just about anything you'd want pickled available for takeout. You can also dine in on a variety of gourmet (but moderately priced) breakfast, lunch and dinner meals that you can wash down with fine wines, craft beers, kombuchas, designer waters and other delightful elixirs. Make sure to check out the artwork on the constantly changing menu board.
156 AVENIDA DEL MAR, SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 492-3663, THECELLARSITE.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: LET IT BRIE

BEST PERUVIAN RESTAURANT
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PERUVIAN RESTAURANT
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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST CHURROS

DON CHURROS

Every weekend, scores of people line up to enjoy a churro recipe that's evolved to perfection over 50 years. Don Churros, a food stand now located at the Anaheim Indoor Marketplace's parking lot, is where the Gomez *familia* continues to satisfy the sweet-toothed with snacks straight from the highlands of Jalisco. There's el tradicional, a simple churro that's anything but as it crinkles into its fluffy interiors upon first bite. The namesake Don Churro is a churro grueso that's a stocky take and is best served with vanilla-bean ice cream drizzled with cajeta. And the sweets don't stop, Don Churros added another crowd pleaser to its menu with a funnel-cake-flavored churro. Order either the tradicional or the grueso and have the treat come back covered in powdered sugar with a scoop of strawberry ice cream and a strawberry drizzle. Life's too short not to churro!

1440 S. ANAHEIM BLVD., ANAHEIM; WWW.DONCHURROSGOMEZ.COM.

BEST COFFEE

COMMON ROOM ROASTERS

There's a diverse selection of pour-over coffees at Common Room Roasters, but brew produced from the beans farmed by Eduin Hernandez of Colombia stands out. With notes of cinnamon and hazelnut, this balanced coffee tastes incredibly bold with spurious notes of sweetness.

882 PRODUCTION PLACE, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 220-7868, COMMONROOMROASTERS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: KEAN COFFEE

BEST COFFEEHOUSE

BEAR COAST COFFEE

Longtime aficionado Jeff Clinard sources Bear Coast Coffee's beans directly from farmers who use sustainable practices. Sweet Bloom of Colorado has been the company's go-to roaster from the get-go and will now help guide Bear Coast as it develops its own roasting skills. In house, the staff already make almond milk fresh daily, as well as create all the syrups and flavorings, including lavender-infused caramel, a vanilla with nutmeg notes and a dark chocolate ganache. But it's the coffee that makes regulars out of first-timers. Hired for their warmth and humanity, the baristas are taught to make great art on milk. And if you want to get in the game, Bear Coast holds latte-art throwdowns from time to time.

618 1/2 AVENIDA VICTORIA, SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 482-0618; ALSO AT 34052 LA PLAZA, STE. 103, DANA POINT, (949) 388-1103, AND 197 AVENIDA LA PATA, SAN CLEMENTE, BEARCOASTCOFFEE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: KEAN COFFEE

BEST COLD BREW

THE LOST BEAN

A good cold brew is hard to find. Many either don't give you that desired electric jolt or are just lackluster after being watered down during the brewing process. But the Lost Bean's refreshingly chilled cold brew has a strong flavor that provides a much-needed jumpstart after the first sip. Pair it with your milk of choice, or drink it black, and the brilliant caffeine rush will course through your veins throughout the day. The only downside? The Lost Bean prepares a limited supply, so it's best to order it early or call ahead to inquire whether it's in stock. If high demand isn't a sign of quality, then what else is?

13011 NEWPORT AVE., STE. 104, TUSTIN, (714) 544-2584; ALSO AT 3335 SUSAN ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 884-3180, AND 4632 BARRANCA PKWY., IRVINE, (949) 333-2241; THELOSTBEAN.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PORTOLA COFFEE ROASTERS

BEST CRAFT BEER SHOP

HOLLINGSHEAD'S DELICATESSAN

Stepping into Hollingshead's Delicatessan is like entering a 1980s sitcom; it has a little bit of that Midwestern *Happy Days* vibe and a smidge of *Family Ties*, and it reminds one of the bar in *Cheers*, where everybody knows your name. You'll find a good mix of local beer, something interesting from a recent tap takeover, or even perhaps an old forgotten favorite. And then there's beer to go, which goes great with whatever deli selection you choose (hint: get the pickled eggs).

368 S. MAIN ST., ORANGE, (714) 978-9467; WWW.HOLLINGSHEADSDELI.COM

READERS' CHOICE: HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

BEST CRAFT COCKTAILS

CENTRAL BAR

If you want complex cocktails constructed with an amazing array of fresh herbs, bitters, juices and syrups, then Central Bar in Tustin is where you want to go. The Last of the Oaxacans—made with mezcal, lime, Maraschino liqueur and green chartreuse and served in a coup glass—is especially good, as is the Jam Session, which has vodka, cherry, blackberry, hibiscus and burlesque bitters. Want to go off the menu and order something real old-school, such as a Last Word or Aviation? The bar staff will gladly do that. And the drinks aren't extravagantly priced, it'll cost more than a gin and tonic at your usual hang, but you're also getting so much more.

2493 PARK AVE., TUSTIN, (714) 258-8161; CENTRALBAROC.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG

BEST CUPCAKE

SUSIECAKES

If you've ever wondered what the right amount of fluff is for a cupcake, you'll find the answer at SusieCakes. Made daily with fresh ingredients, the bakery offers various flavors that will soothe any sweet tooth. The red-velvet cupcake is akin to eating a cream cheese-coated cloud. And the flourless cupcakes have the same taste and consistency as the scratch-made brownies! Join SusieCakes' reward program, and you'll instantly get TWO free cupcakes. It's that easy to enjoy a delicious treat—what are you waiting for?

3321 HYLAND AVE., STE. J, COSTA MESA, (714) 265-2253; ALSO AT 25473 RANCHO NIGUEL RD., STE. B, LAGUNA NIGUEL, (949) 214-2253, AND 2043 WESTCLIFF DR., STE. 104, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 646-6881; SUSIECAKES.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SPRINKLES CUPCAKES

BEST DATE NIGHT

DESCANSO

All you need to know about Descanso can be found in these three words: Benihana with tacos. And that's more than an elevator pitch, it's what you should tell your date when you propose to take them out. Everything they'll expect of a teppanyaki experience is here: the showboating chef, the mountain of fried rice, the meat sizzling on the griddle. They're guaranteed to agree to go because who wouldn't want dinner and a show? But at Descanso, instead of bland, barely seasoned pseudo-Japanese stir-fries, you get real Mexican alambres oozing cheese as well as chicken tacos on two-toned tortillas topped with orange segments and crispy skin.

1555 ADAMS AVE., STE. 103, COSTA MESA, (714) 486-3798; DESCANSORESTAURANT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: FIVE CROWNS

BEST DAY-DRINKING BAR

THE FLING

Though some of the best day-drinking you can do takes place between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., the Fling doesn't unlock its door until the relatively late time of 10, but we're calling it OC's best place for the time-honored activity because it's the Fling. The bright-red wallpaper, naugahyde booths, old paintings, cheap drinks and creepy guys all scream day-drinking paradise. Sure, there are plenty of places where you can down a beer and a shot when the sun is still high in the sky, but none of them offers the Fling's style.

2370 TUSTIN AVE., SANTA ANA, (714) 547-8972.

READERS' CHOICE: MUTT LYNCH'S

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WWW.KEANCOFFEE.COM

FOOD AND DRINK

BEST DELI

EL GAUCHO MEAT MARKET #2

Argentines are known to be a carnivorous bunch thanks to their legendary asados, wherein a variety of meat gets tossed on a grill. El Gaucho Meat Market in Anaheim (#1 is in Manhattan Beach) does its national reputation proud. Here is where you'll find Argentine chorizo, beef short ribs and chicken milanesa. The market also has chimichurri, Quilmes Argentinian beer and alfajores among its selection. But for those looking for a quicker bite, the sandwich counter is where it's at. The menu resembles that of a retro burger joint, but it reads long on affordable sandwiches, such as the matambre (translation: hunger killer) and the Uruguayan chivito, a heavy hitter with beef, bacon and ham. And those aren't even the best items! Did we mention there are empanadas, too? They're perfect companions while watching the Albaceleste take the field on the deli's mounted TV screens.

847 STATE COLLEGE, ANAHEIM, (714) 776-6400

READERS' CHOICE: CORTINA'S ITALIAN MARKET

BEST DESSERT

CUCINA ENOTECA

Although best known for giving classic Italian dishes a twist, what CUCINA Enoteca also does perfectly is desserts. The decadent chocolate semifreddo feuilletine is any sweet tooth's dream; its rich, mousse-y base has a slight bitter tang at the end that complements the overall sweetness. Cocoa nibs and vanilla cream top off the dish, adding texture and a new flavor to the traditional dessert.

951 NEWPORT CENTER DR., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 706-1416; ALSO AT 532 SPECTRUM CENTER DR., IRVINE, (949) 861-2222; WWW.URBANKITCHENGROUP.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: MIXED BAKERY

BEST DIM SUM

CAPITAL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

For the entire dim sum and brunch experience, with all the best Chinese dishes, platters and desserts, head straight to Capital Seafood Restaurant at the Irvine Spectrum. The fast-paced eatery buzzes with energy from the moment it opens its doors. Brunch features dozens of waiters pushing carts filled to the brim with a myriad of Chinese dishes and platters, including such best-sellers as shumai, pork dumplings, sticky rice and kai-lan. Among the crowd-pleasing traditional Chinese desserts are mango pudding and pineapple custard buns, served fresh out of the oven, they offer the perfect balance of sweet, tangy and fluffy dough in each bite.

770 SPECTRUM CENTER DR., IRVINE, (949) 788-9218; SPECTRUMCAPITAL-SEAFOOD.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: DIN TAI FUNG

BEST DINER

WOODY'S DINER

Though it has just six locations, Woody's Diner is an Orange County institution. It's not some new hip or retro joint that will probably disappear in six months or maybe after two years, but rather it's a classic diner that continues to reinvest in itself and reinvent its offerings without sacrificing its mission. All it wants to do is serve you some quintessentially Californian cuisine at a decent price point in a bright, comfortable, surf-themed setting. And it does that well, from the Woody omelet (fluffy eggs holding bacon, ham, sausage, green onions, and jack and Cheddar cheeses, then topped with slices of avocado and a dollop of sour cream) to the Ole Burger (with a patty topped with

not only pepper jack cheese, but also grilled jalapeños), not to mention the crispiest onion rings around.
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, WWW.WOODYSDINERS.COM
READERS' CHOICE: HARBOR HOUSE CAFE

BEST DISTILLERY

BLINKING OWL DISTILLERY

Husband-and-wife team Robin and Brian Christenson have created a tasting room where the drinks are as beautiful as the gleaming copper stills. Blinking Owl's boutique spirits inhabit serious cocktails all over town, but there's no better place to sample them than at the distillery's own marble bar, which simply evokes swanky cocktail culture.
802 E. WASHINGTON AVE., SANTA ANA, (714) 852-3947, BLINKINGOWLDISTILLERY.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: BLINKING OWL DISTILLERY

BEST DIVE BAR

CASSIDY'S

Cassidy's is great in all the ways a dive bar can be. The restrooms suck. The seats are old. The walls are covered in photos, many yellowed from decades of exposure to the salt air. Fights sometimes happen outside. The video games are dull. The pool tables are okay. You go there to drink beer or hard alcohol—or a combination of both. Really tall bros named Chad and Steve love the place. They sell crazy-good burgers, but there are no fries (you can get chips, though). Even if you live close and go here often, people will sometimes get all surly with you. There is nothing hip or cool about Cassidy's, but it's the hippest, coolest joint in all of OC.
2603 NEWPORT BLVD., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-3949
READERS' CHOICE: THE VINTAGE COCKTAIL LOUNGE

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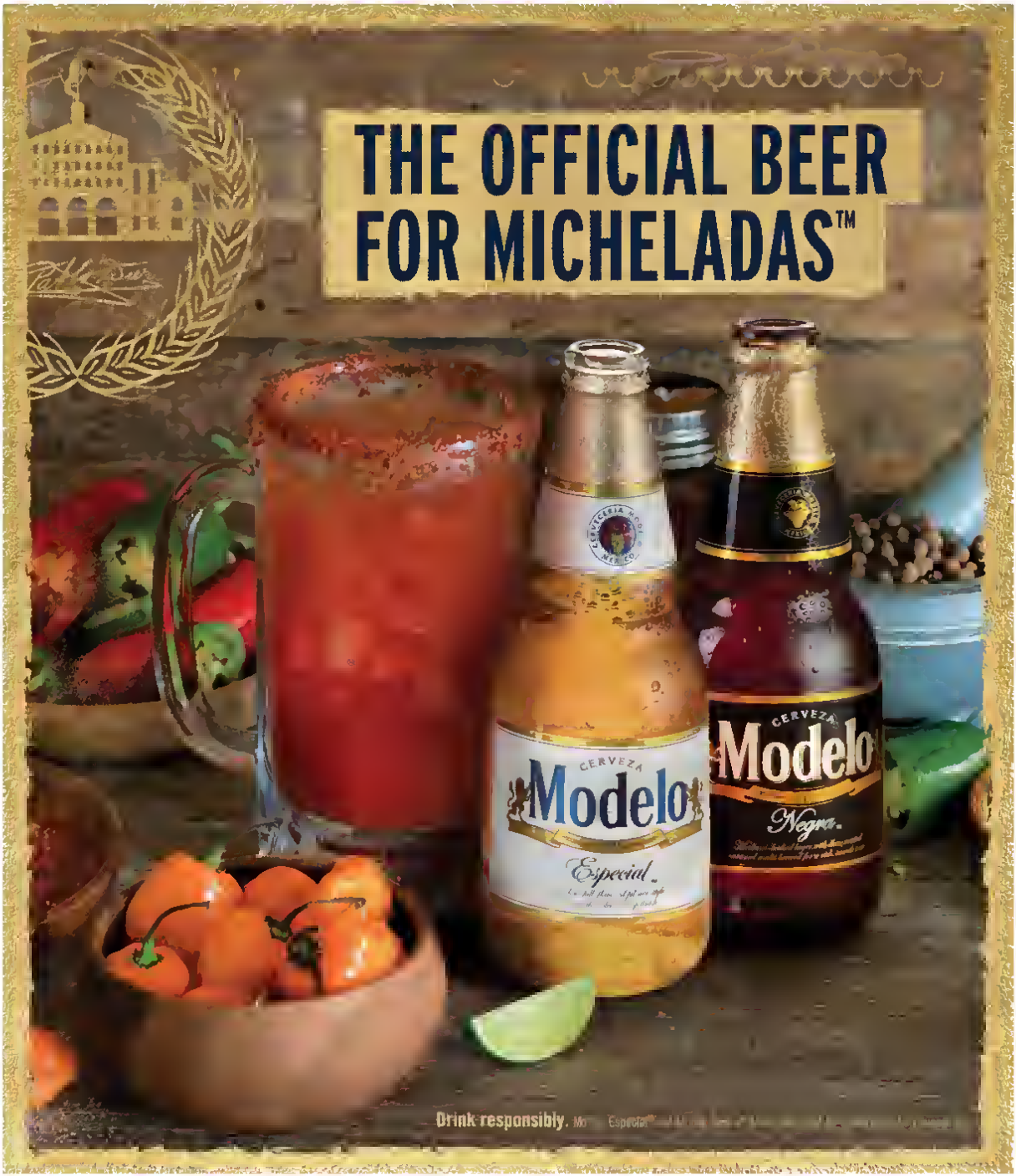
Huntington Beach: 10035 Adams Ave | (714) 964-7500 (at the corner of Brookhurst – next to CVS)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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST DOG-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

LAZY DOG CAFE

Founded in 2003, Lazy Dog Cafe has become the go-to place for dog owners. On the wide patio, you can relax by the fire or at a table with your pup, who can order (with your help) from a special menu. Brown rice accompanies a grilled beef patty or chicken breast in a special bowl. And there's plenty to keep you satisfied, too, including a pork belly BLT and indigo cornbread fries, plus extensive happy hour deals. Don't forget to grab a bone-shaped mint on the way out!

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, WWW.LAZYDOGRESTAURANTS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: LAZY DOG CAFE

BEST DOUGHNUT SHOP

OLIBOLI DOUGHNUTS

Hands down one of the best places populating Old Town Tustin is this delicious pastry shop. Go classic with a light and airy sugar flavor, or opt for one of the more labor-intensive selections such as the oeuf (egg), Oliboli's riff on a Benny.

135 W. FIRST ST., STE. B, TUSTIN, (714) 760-4876, WWW.OLIBOLI.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SIDECAR DOUGHNUTS & COFFEE

BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

KAREEM'S RESTAURANT

With the warmth of Arab hospitality, Kareem's Restaurant in Anaheim's Little Arabia District easily feels like home. Patrons don't even have to be regulars to be treated like family. Nesrine Omari, the falafel queen who has been with the restaurant since the beginning, makes every meal taste as if it were home-cooked. And her congeniality and attentiveness are legendary. Two of Omari's children who are around the same age as the restaurant itself have taken the initiative to help keep Kareem's going after their father passed away a few years go. Boasting the best falafels and hummus in Little Arabia, the food is so good no child would want to order chicken strips and fries. But don't take our word for it. Folks can read all the endearing messages scrawled in permanent marker on a banner inside the restaurant or watch *Yallah Habibi*, a hilarious web-series pilot based on the family business!

1208 S. BROOKHURST ST., ANAHEIM, (714) 215-4035. WWW.KAREEMSFALAFEL.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE

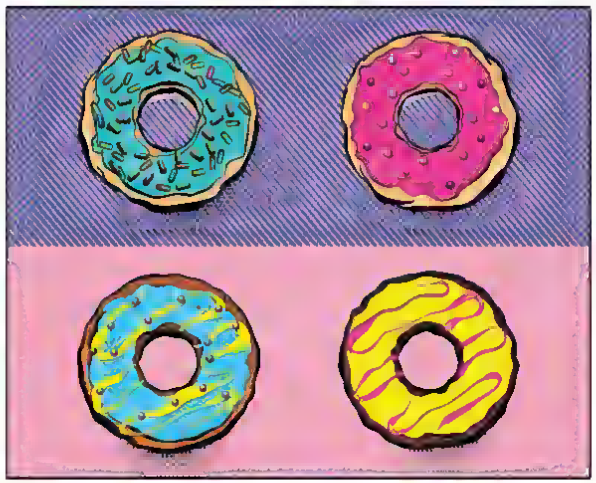
BEST FARMERS' MARKET

ORANGE HOME GROWN FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET

While it may appear modest compared to other markets in the area, the folks here are a tight community of established vendors who have a rapport with their customers as well as the Old Towne community. The Handmade Marketplace kicked off earlier this year, allowing those specializing in crafts to also sell their wares. A free parking structure, live entertainment and even free dog-sitting make this weekly jaunt worth a visit.

303 W. PALM AVE., ORANGE; WWW.ORANGEHOMEGROWN.ORG

READERS' CHOICE: IRVINE CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET



BEST FILIPINO RESTAURANT

MARIA'S KUSINA

Nestled next to El Superior in a Buena Park strip mall, Maria's Kusina is easy—but not advisable—to miss. The panciteria de Manila near Knott's Berry Farm is the best place to pack on the Pinoy pounds after a day of walking all over the theme park. The pork sisig seasoned with the sour, citrus taste of calamansi sauce and topped with a fried egg is a great place to begin this decadent dining experience. The extensive menu also offers a variety of pancit; we recommend the pancit canton, a stir-fry of thin egg noodles, vegetables, pork and chicken. Maria's savory chicken lives up to its name, and the siopaos are as bulging as patrons will feel after retiring their plates. Word to the wise: Bring your kuyas, as portions are big enough to share.

6901 LA PALMA AVE., BUENA PARK, (714) 521-0108.

BEST FISH TACO

A'S BURGERS

Easy and simple with just a few key ingredients, the fish tacos at A's Burgers are truly hard to not love. The aioli sauce has a bit of a tang but not so overpowering that it tastes too much like mayo, and there is just the right amount of pico de gallo so you're not getting a mouthful of lettuce and tomato. The fish itself is cooked perfectly, with savory, sweet and moist in perfect balance. And every fish-taco order is accompanied by chips and salsa to add a bit of spice to your meal.

34344 PACIFIC COAST HWY., DANA POINT, (949) 496-4460; ALSO AT 28698 CAMINO CAPISTRANO, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, (949) 364-2099; ASBURGERSRESTAURANT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: BEAR FLAG FISH CO.

BEST FOOD HALL

4TH STREET MARKET

You can have a michelada, a lobster roll and a scoop of creamy ice cream at the 4th Street Market in downtown Santa Ana. This trendy food hall offers 10 stalls with tasty and delicious food offerings, plus a coffee shop and cocktail bar. The large outdoor patio is perfect for enjoying a multicultural meal with friends, and live bands are often performing there. The marketplace also hosts lots of food-themed events, so there's no excuse to not get your grub on here.

201 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 486-0700, WWW.4THSTREETMARKET.COM

READERS' CHOICE: 4TH STREET MARKET

BEST FOOD STAND

NAUGLES BY THE BEACH

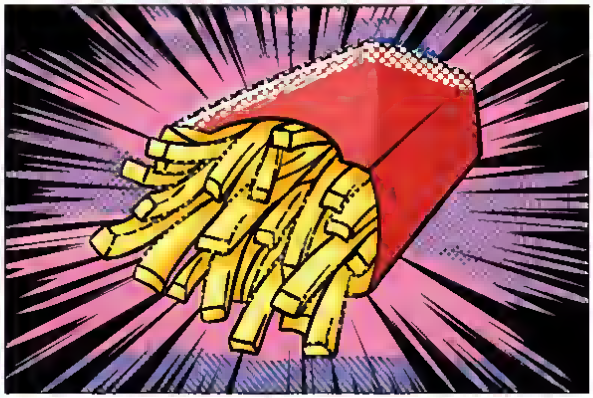
A Riverside-born fast-food chain for late-night drunks in the 1970s, Naugles Tacos & Burgers came roaring back with new owner Christian Ziebarth in 2012 and its first permanent 2.0 location in Fountain Valley three years later. Customers who'd sobered up by then discovered their old pre-bang-over chow actually was not bad (who knew?), which made it all the more exciting to see a beachside stand open in a former Wahoo's spot across from the Waterfront Hilton in Huntington Beach. Though it's currently open only on weekends, once the hungry find parking (better to hike), they can devour tried-and-true burritos, bun tacos, Hombre Nachos, crispy shelled tacos and soft flour tortilla tacos brimming with that addicting seasoned ground beef.

21351 PACIFIC COAST HWY., HUNTINGTON BEACH; NAUGLESTACOS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: HERITAGE BARBECUE

PORTOLA
COFFEE ROASTERS
named
BEST
COLD BREW
by OC WEEKLY 2019
READER'S CHOICE POLL
PORTOLA
PORTOLACOFFEE.C

FOOD AND DRINK



BEST FOOD TRUCK

TACOS EL GRINGO

In case you think we've lost our *cabezas*, this food truck's Instagram page starts with the following disclaimer: "Don't let the GRINGO fool you! [We're] Santa Ana-raised, taking notes from your *abuelas*' favorite recipes." Addictively delicious "straight tacos" are served with asada, pollo, carnitas, chorizo and al pastor, but even meat-lovers will dive into vegetarian tacos and burritos stuffed with potatoes, cilantro, grilled onions, soy chorizo and a plant-based queso. Tacos El Gringo often pops up around OC breweries, but if you can't find the truck, make up an event just so you can book it.

(714) 618-1823. INSTAGRAM: @TACOS_EL_GRINGO.

READERS' CHOICE: SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE

BEST FRENCH TOAST

MARCHÉ MODERNE

This French restaurant serves a brioche HOUSE. This coconut toast is stacked, and that's a fact—ain't holding nothing back. It sits atop a creamy foundation of vanilla anglaise and passion fruit, with coco-mango gelato melting upon the roof for extra deliciousness. You will see a server walk by with one and immediately have to order it, so just go right ahead from the start and savor the most delightful sugar rush.

7862 E. PACIFIC COAST HWY., NEWPORT BEACH, (714) 434-7900, MARCHEMODERNE.NET.

READERS' CHOICE: TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

TWO BIRDS

With chicken being such a universal food, it's difficult to find a truly scrumptious fried-chicken place but easy to find a meal to flex on social media. No place meets both criteria like Two Birds in Irvine. Just one glance at its Instagram feed will have you drooling. Maybe its recipe for success comes from founding chef Andrew Gruel, who also happens to be a frequent judge for Food Network shows.

2222 MICHELSON DR., IRVINE, (949) 932-0420; WWW.TWOBIRDSRESTAURANT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE CRACK SHACK

BEST FRIES

TAQUIERO TACO PATIO

The authenticity of the tacos at Taquiero Taco Patio is undeniable, but the fries are a hidden gem. Crispy as hell and topped with your choice of al pastor or carne asada, then smothered in chipotle sauce, sour cream, cheese and avocado, one order will comfortably feed a large family or study group.

4517 CAMPUS DR., IRVINE, (949) 333-1671; WWW.TAQUIEROTACO.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: CHAPTER ONE. THE MODERN LOCAL

BEST GAY BAR

TIN LIZZIE

The interior of this beloved venue boasts a gorgeous, Victorian-inspired aesthetic, plus there's a pool table and digital jukebox to entertain guests. While the decor may be glossy, Tin Lizzie's atmosphere is relaxed and chill, inviting you to schmooze with your friends, make new ones or enjoy one of the many events held here, including television-viewing parties and drag queen bingo. Drink specials are offered throughout the week, and the fancy cocktails will sate the more discerning, artsy drinkers who walk through the Lizzie's fabulous doors.

752 ST. CLAIR ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 966-2029, TINLIZZIESALOON.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: VELVET LOUNGE

BEST GREEK RESTAURANT

GREEK BISTRO

Enjoy a taste of Greece without leaving Orange County. Greek Bistro offers perfectly seasoned staples of the European country. Start your meal with the soothing hummus and tangy tzatziki dips, accompanied by delicate pita bread. The incredibly tender chicken and lamb platters are great for sharing family-style, and the side of grilled vegetables has an incredible smoky flavor. And don't forget to save room for the decadent baklava.

25292 MCINTYRE ST., STE. A, LAGUNA HILLS, (949) 249-2222; WWW.GREEKBISTRO.NET.

READERS' CHOICE: CHRISTAKIS GREEK CUISINE

BEST HAPPY HOUR

THE CAULDRON SPIRITS AND BREWS

Sure, the Cauldron Spirits and Brews offers seemingly normal midday happy hour drink specials, with well drinks, local craft beers and wines selected by the head witch herself shedding a dollar in price. Specialty drinks—such as the Harvest Moon, which casts a new spell on the classic screwdriver—shed two. But when the clock strikes midnight, it becomes the "witching hour" at the Cauldron. That means all those midday drink specials return until closing on select nights. And if revelers begin to feel "light as a feather, stiff as a board," then it's probably time to summon an Uber!

8028 BEACH BLVD., BUENA PARK, (714) 484-2733, WWW.THECAULDRONBAR.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG

BEST HOT DOGS

JOE SCHMOE'S

Having spent years training to become "wiener-masters," friends and Joe Schmoe's co-owners Mike Richards and Nick Harris specialize in gourmet hot dogs adorned with creative yet delicious toppings. With a secret menu almost as long as the regular one, you'll find treasures such as the Blood Hound Dog, a bacon-wrapped sausage smothered in rich Cheddar cheese, caramelized onions and a dash of barbecue sauce. Of course, you can get a regular Frankfurter, too, but with 20 scrumptious options to choose from, why would you want to?

5123 BALL RD., CYPRESS, (714) 527-4310; JOESCHMOES.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: COSTCO

BEST ICE CREAM

PARADIS HANDCRAFTED

A decade ago, this Dutch company opened its first U.S. shop in LA, and luckily for us, it ventured south into OC, landing in Dana Point. Paradis Handcrafted's chefs create each batch from scratch, adding flavorings from around the world, including bourbon vanilla from Madagascar and organic cocoa from the Dominican Republic, as well as ripe, fresh fruit. Narrowing down your selection will give you brain freeze, as you sample extremely lush, but never oversugared flavors from a metal spoon. The super-creamy speculoos with fresh-baked Belgian cookies is a party in your mouth, and the Amarena cherry chip and sweet-yet-tart raspberry peach are must-trys. But the stracciatella and sea-salted caramel are the best we've ever licked—a chilly paradise.

34255 PACIFIC COAST HWY., STE. 114, DANA POINT, (949) 441-7070; PARADIS-ICECREAM.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: RICH FARM ICE CREAM

BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT

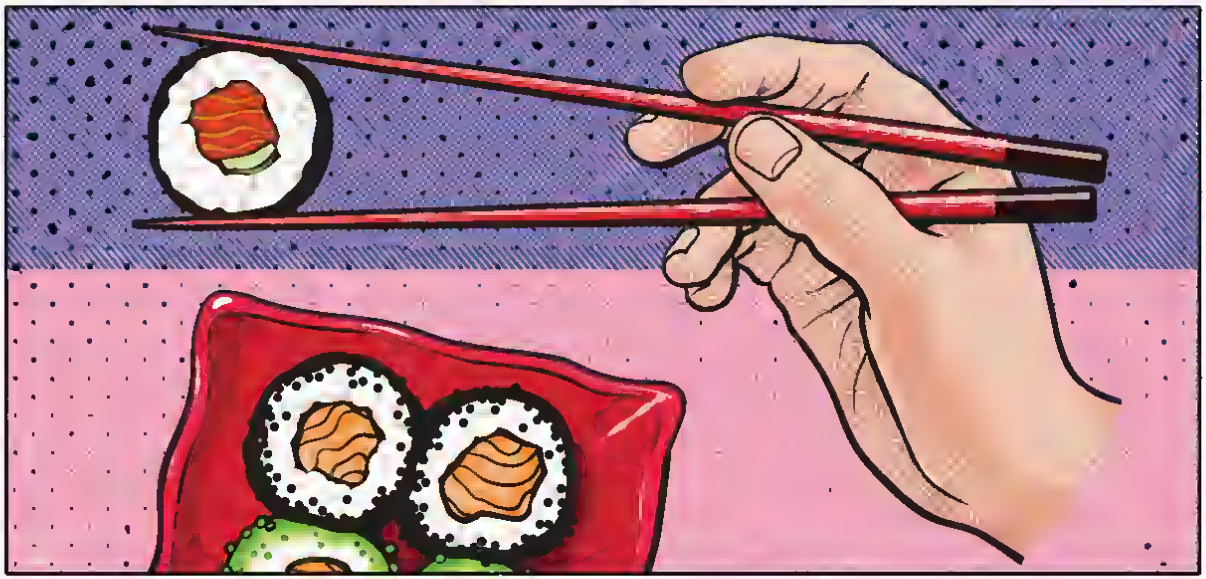
DOSA PLACE

In addition to its namesake, Dosa Place offers an enormous array of Indian dishes. But standing above the rest is the aloo gobi, a cauliflower and potato curry plate that is spiced to perfection, with a kick that's just hard enough to be satisfying.

13812 RED HILL AVE., TUSTIN, (714) 505-7777; WWW.DOSAPLACE.COM

READERS' CHOICE: NATRAJ CUISINE OF INDIA

FOOD AND DRINK



BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

ANGELO'S AND VINCI'S RISTORANTE

A visit to Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante will make you feel as if you've traveled to Italy. Its four floors are filled with eclectic décor, including life-like Sicilian puppets. This family-owned restaurant passed down to a long-time employee, who has continued serving traditional dishes such as Lasagna Angelo's and Imgumi with fresh clams, as well as a world-class, thick and doughy, cheesy pizza that may become your new favorite.

550 N. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 879-4022; WWW.ANGELOSANDVINCIS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: MAMA D'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

BEST JAPANESE RESTAURANT

FUKADA

While you can get sushi rolls here, this is not why you go to Fukada. Instead, you want to concentrate on the traditional Japanese fare. The soba with sansai is available cold or hot, either way, you'll get a heaping variety of Japanese mountain vegetables atop perfect noodles in a nourishing broth. You can make your own tempura combo plate; each vegetable and protein listed comes two to an order, so mix a bit of lotus root with shrimp for a party in your mouth. But definitely get a spicy tuna donburi bowl: soft tuna is mixed with a not-too-spicy mayonnaise, then scooped on top of your choice of brown or white rice and sprinkled with chopped seaweed. Mix in the accompanying dollop of wasabi, plus a dash or two of soy sauce, and you have achieved nirvana.

8683 IRVINE CENTER DR., IRVINE, (949) 341-0111; FUKADARESTAURANT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: ANJIN

BEST JUICE OR SMOOTHIE

VIBE ORGANIC KITCHEN & JUICE

Homemade coconut milk is the base for all the smoothies here, where your opinion of a plant-based diet may change. Plus, the smoothies come in a bowl, allowing you to slurp and chew all that cool deliciousness. The juice blends are 100 percent organic and made to order. Try the Spicy Green, with pineapple, cucumber, kale, jalapeño and lime—something that tastes this thrilling has to be a danger! Ginger, lemon and cayenne pepper come together in a shot named Fireball. If all that's too risky, try the hand-squeezed lemonade; there's none better—except for grandma's version.

1000 BRISTOL ST. N, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 478-4118; ALSO AT 34255 PACIFIC COAST HWY., DANA POINT, (949) 259-5514; WWW.EATDRINKVIBE.COM. INSTAGRAM: @EATDRINKVIBE.

READERS' CHOICE: NEKTER

BEST KOREAN BARBECUE

CHAM SUT GOL KOREAN BBQ

It's time to play the game show sweeping the countryside, from Big Orange to Little Saigon. BRING! MY!! MEAT!!! Contestants choose items from an all-you-can-meat—I mean, all-you-can-eat menu. We're talking brisket, pork belly, bulgogi, chicken, spicy pork, pork chop, diamond-cut pork belly, beef belly and CSG dduk kalbi (seasoned beef and pork patty). Cook 'em on the grill in the center of your table, then finish your mound before everyone else so you can be the first one to slam the tableside buzzer. Tell the attentive server who quickly shows up, "BRING! MY!! MEAT!!!" Repeat again and again. What's in store for the player who eats the most meat, Johnny? "It's an all-expenses-paid trip to Hoag cardiology, Monty!"

9252 GARDEN GROVE BLVD., STE. 10, GARDEN GROVE, (714) 590-9292; CHAMSUTGOLKOREANBBQ.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: GEN KOREAN BBQ

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT

KYUNG BOK KUNG

Kyung Bok Kung is one of the few places (if not the only one) in the county to offer han-jeongsik, a blowout feast originally designed for royalty in imperial Korea. The defining characteristic of the meal is an overwhelming spread served all at once. At Kyung Bok Kung, your table will be blanketed with about 15 different dishes, with no expense spared on presentation. There will be rich porridge, gurgling soups, bright salads, savory pancakes, perfectly sliced sashimi, sizzling barbecue meats and whole fish. And that's not counting the sides and sauces. By the end, you'll think to yourself, "How am I going to finish all this?" Also: "My Instagram followers are going to be so jealous!"

7801 BEACH BLVD., BUENA PARK, (714) 888-4948; KYUNGBOKKUNGUSA.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: MR. BBQ

BEST LATE-NIGHT DINING

EL TORO BRAVO

Finding good Mexican food is always the best feeling, but it's even better at 2 a.m. This 24-hour dining destination serves up à la carte tacos in a hurry. But if you're absurdly hungry, order some meat to go (El Toro Bravo sells it by the pound) so you can create your own paradise for your late-night cravings.

562 W. 19TH ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 791-8183; ALSO AT 1450 EL CAMINO REAL, STE. B, TUSTIN, (714) 665-1400, AND 24012 AVENIDA DE LA CARLOTA, LAGUNA HILLS, (949) 652-5444; ELTOROBRAVOMEXICANFOOD.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SOCIAL COSTA MESA

BEST LOBSTER ROLL

SLAPFISH

Lobster rolls are an East Coast classic, but that doesn't mean the West Coast should make do with something makeshift. Slapfish doesn't mess around with this crustacean. Its lobster roll is as authentic as you can get: The warm, delicately crispy bun jumps with flavor and texture, and the melt-in-your-mouth lobster meat is drenched in a mayo, butter and lemon sauce that's just the right amount of sweet, salty and tangy.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.SLAPFISHRESTAURANT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SLAPFISH

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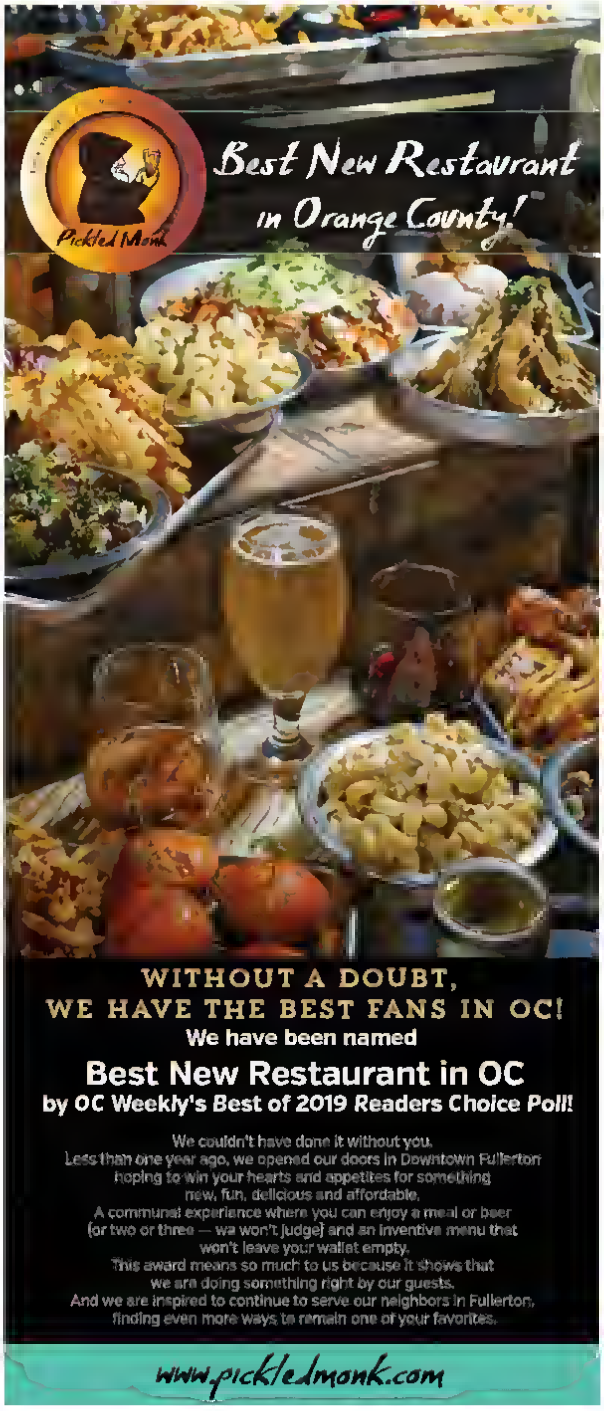
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we are doing something right by our guests.
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finding even more ways to remain one of your favorites.
www.pickledmonk.com

FOOD AND DRINK

BEST LOCAL BREWERY, LONG BEACH

BEACHWOOD BLENDERY

Not many California breweries make a proper Belgian-style lambic, much less a three-year blend called a gueuze. But Beachwood Blendery owner Gabe Gordon sought to demystify the magic beer quality brewers/blenders such as Brasserie Cantillon in Belgium have made for decades. Gordon and his team installed probes in that noted blendery, then set their Long Beach location to mimic that environment. What resulted is a tart, funky, complex beer called Funk Yeah!, which won gold at this year's Great American Beer Festival.

247 LONG BEACH BLVD., LONG BEACH, (562) 436-4020, BEACHWOODBREWING.COM/BLENDERY.HTML

READERS' CHOICE: BALLAST POINT BREWING

BEST LOCAL BREWERY, NORTH COUNTY

TAPS BREWERY & BARREL ROOM

One of OC's crown jewels since it opened in 1999, the company's brewery project in Tustin suddenly set the new standard for what a beer-tasting experience can be. TAPS Brewery & Barrel Room offers exceptional brews crafted in a variety of styles, everything from classic European lagers to the pastry stouts and hazies. Add that to the comfortable indoor/outdoor seating, games, warm hospitality and tasty bites sizzling out of a perma food truck, and you've got yourself a win.

15501 RED HILL AVE., TUSTIN, (657) 247-3920; WWW.TAPSBREWERY.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: GOLDEN ROAD BREWING

BEST LOCAL BREWERY, SOUTH COUNTY

PIZZA PORT SAN CLEMENTE

Pizza Port is a true icon of craft brewing in the United States, and OC is blessed to be home to one of its locations. Since 2002, the beers that flow out of its San Clemente taps have been made by some of the most storied brewers in the world, including Tomme Arthur at the Lost Abbey and Jeff Bagby, who's now at Bagby Beer Co. Where will current brewer Jon Eckelberger be in 10 years? Time will tell.

301 N EL CAMINO REAL, SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 940-0005, WWW.PIZZAPORT.COM/BREWPUBS/SAN-CLEMENTE.

READERS' CHOICE: LEFT COAST BREWING

BEST LOCAL IPA

NOBLE ALE WORKS

Orange County is home to the most consistent award-winning India Pale Ales. And Nobility Double IPA from Noble Ale Works has won two back-to-back awards at the World Beer Cup, a feat no other brewery has done in the past decade. Whether it be session IPA, West Coast, or hazy, the brewers here have it dialed down to a science.

1621 SINCLAIR ST., STE. B, ANAHEIM, (714) 634-2739. WWW.NOBLEALEWORKS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE GREAT ONE FROM FOUR SONS BREWERY

BEST LOCAL SOUR BEER

BRUERY TERREUX

Thankfully, many of the sour-beer makers have dialed back the tooth-enamel-stripping sour warheads of yesteryear. Good brewers have found that a pleasant, balanced, almost wine-like acidity is where it's at. Bruery Terreux's team does this best with two huge wooden barrels called foeders, in which a constant flow of delicious fruited sours are produced, not to mention a library's worth of barrels holding beers that will be blended into what we'll be drinking in a couple of years.

1174 N. GROVE ST., ANAHEIM, (714) 905-7361; WWW.BRUERYTERREUX.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: PLUM SAISON FROM UNSUNG BREWING CO.

BEST LOCAL WINERY

COWBOY CANYON WINERY/GIRACCI VINEYARDS

Because of a recent accident involving a mini-fridge, you can now experience the wonders of two South Orange County wineries in one cozy tasting room. For the indefinite future, the Cowboy Canyon Winery tasting room is now located in neighbor Giracci Vineyard's dodecagon tasting room. Now, you can sample Cowboy Canyon's lush barbera, sangiovese and other Italian wines in the same place as Giracci's drier zinfandels and pinots. And when the fireplace is roaring during the colder months, you'll want to be enveloped in the room's big, comfy chairs with a glass of wine nearby. Though six tastings for $20 sounds expensive, with the generous pours here, you're basically getting two full glasses.

COWBOY CANYON WINERY, 16162 JACKSON RANCH RD., SILVERADO, (714) 202-0212, COWBOYCANYONWINERY.COM. GIRACCI VINEYARDS, 16162 JACKSON RANCH RD., SILVERADO, (714) 602-1109; GIRACCI.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: ORANGE COAST WINERY

BEST MARGARITA

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

Based on price alone, Avila's El Ranchito's 12 Orange County locations offer the best margaritas. They always have deals going on, whether it is Taco Tuesday or just happy hour, when you'll choose from a number of different kinds. But the best one at which to sip these award-winning tequila-based concoctions is in Newport Beach, where

the recently remodeled restaurant is within walking distance of the ocean, making the environment as relaxing as the margaritas. 2800 NEWPORT BLVD., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-6855, AVILASELRANCHITO.COM. READERS' CHOICE: PLAYA MESA

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

LA SUPER BIRRIA

Even though the owners finally changed the sign outside from Dulcería Caracol to La Super Birria, you still walk in feeling as though you've discovered El Dorado in the jungle. The golden treasure you find at La Super Birria is the birria de res itself, a spicy, brick-red stew of beef so tender it verges on collapse. And where it isn't falling apart, there are just enough bits of fat left behind to make you shudder with delight. The fact that it's the kind of home-style bowl of food an *abuelita* would make is confirmed by the actual *abuelitas* tending to the huge stew pot in the kitchen. These ladies also hand-make the tortillas you eat on the side—which are the thickest, best specimens in a town with a lot of tortillas. Soft but also chewy, light but also hearty, they possess a pure corn flavor and are as perfect an accompaniment to the birria de res as oyster crackers are to clam chowder. 1041 W. FIRST ST., SANTA ANA, (657) 245-3810. READERS' CHOICE: AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

BEST MICHELADAS

ALTA BAJA MARKET

Though micheladas are often considered simple beer cocktails, there's no better place to test that theory than at Alta Baja Market in downtown Santa Ana. There's a whole michelada menu. Sure, it includes traditional flavors such as La Mera Mera (made with savory michelada mix, Negra Modelo and a chile rim) and the La Santera (with lime juice, Modelo Especial and a chile rim), but our favorite has long been La Chiquita, a spicy passion fruit blend with Modelo Especial. There's also the spicy La Malandrina (made with avocado, serranos and Modelo Especial) and the pineapple-coconut La Traviesa (with Negra Modelo). Oh, and during weekend brunch, try La Ultima, an extra-large La Santera or La Mera Mera served with a plate of aguachile or the vegan cucumber/radish/spicy bar mix botanas. 201 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 783-2252, ALTABAJAMARKET.COM. READERS' CHOICE: HIDALGO'S COCINA & COCTELES

Wild... crazy... raunchy... Strictly Adult – Rated R

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BEER FOOD

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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANT

OLIVE TREE RESTAURANT

When it comes to excelling in Arabic food, Olive Tree won't be uprooted any time soon. Alan Abdo's restaurant in Anaheim's Little Arabia District remains stellar from start to finish. Appetizers set the tone, whether it's Palestinian fries dusted with zataar seasoning or refreshing labne with pools of olive oil waiting to be scooped with pita bread. For a quick lunch, the sandwiches are as affordable as they are delicious. But do plan to make time to dine in. The lamb shanks are legendary for their fall-off-the-bone tenderness. Arayes kufta may take a bit longer for the kitchen to cook up, but the grilled beef patties stuffed inside toasted pita bread are well worth the wait. And the restaurant offers the best Iftar buffet during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, bringing out drinks such as Qamar Al-Deen, a thick, sweet apricot juice that translates to "moon of religion." As with everything else at Olive Tree, it's divine!

518 S. BROOKHURST ST., STE. I, ANAHEIM. (714) 535-2878. INSTAGRAM: @OLIVETREERESTAURANTOC.

READERS' CHOICE: HB PITA GRILL

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, LONG BEACH

JOE JOST'S

Since 1934, Joe Jost's has been keeping Long Beach locals nice and sudsy. (Joe's actually opened in 1924, but you know, Prohibition.) It claims to have the coldest beer in town, which you can determine for yourself when your schooner comes with ice bits floating atop your brew. Play some pool in the back, or sit up front at the bar and indulge in what are definitely the best pickled eggs in town. And don't skip the Joe's Special, a slice of fresh rye bread topped with a Polish sausage made from the Jost family's own recipe. As you can see from the hundred or so photos of patrons donning the dive bar's famous T-shirt around the globe, Joe Jost's is downright beloved.

2803 E. ANAHEIM ST., LONG BEACH. (562) 439-5446. WWW.JOEJOSTS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: ALEX'S BAR

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, NORTH OC

CHAPTER ONE: THE MODERN LOCAL

Want to go someplace where you can get cozy with a book and a drink? Everything in Chapter One: the modern local will remind you of a library, especially the books tucked into every nook and cranny. This downtown Santa Ana lounge offers 14 IPA and beer selections, as well as a comprehensive cocktail menu. But it's famous for its flavored Moscow mule drinks, among them the schnozberry, OC and gecen chile. And to soak up the alcohol, the kitchen puts unusual twists on bar standards; try the Good American burger, which has pork belly and melted cheese inside the patty. And if you're looking for a private room, check out the crimson-painted Red Room—perfect for theme nights, comedy shows, and trivia or wine-and-paint nights.

227 N. BROADWAY, SANTA ANA. (714) 352-2225. WWW.CHAPTERONETML.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE CELLAR

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, SOUTH OC

DOCENT BREWING

Sure it's bizarre to call a warehouse brewery a neighborhood bar, but that's exactly what this tasting room feels like. While the only true residents within strolling distance are the mobile-home-dwellers, you can access Docent Brewing by bicycle along San Juan Creek, the free trolley in the summer, and Lyft and Uber year-round. Among the towering brew tanks, you'll find plush couches and a long bar with stools, games, kids, laughter, serious ale pours, and brewers who love what they craft but don't take themselves too seriously. These guides to all things beer are now pouring wine, so it's creeping closer to a neighborhood bar in a more accepted sense. Maybe a partnership with a local distiller is also brewing? When you order your flight, include Docent's award-winning Double Nickels—even get it with your second flight because it's that good. And make your belly happy with a Mountaineer Roll because it's cheap and delicious. But wherever you are, endeavor to follow Docent's motto: "Have fun. Drink local. Be you, no matter what."

33049 CALLE AVIADOR, STE. C, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO. (949) 767-8170. DOCENTBREWING.COM

READERS' CHOICE: SIDE DOOR

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19893 BROOKHURST ST. HUNTINGTON BEACH

FOOD AND DRINK

BEST NEW LOCAL BREWERY

GAMECRAFT BREWING

As most of the breweries here are at the extreme north or south of the county, there's strangly little competition in the middle. But that is where you'll find GameCraft Brewing. The beer made by young Andrew Moy and his team are a good mix of German and American styles that span from light lagers to the hazy-hypey. The brewery's gaming theme sings to the local crowd, who show up in droves to eat, drink and game.

23301 AVENIDA DE LA CARLOTA, STE. C, LAGUNA HILLS, (949) 734-0910, WWW.GAMECRAFTBREWING.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SALTY BEAR BREWING CO

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

GRAM'S KITCHEN

You wouldn't think of finding much of a nightlife in La Palma, let alone in a mini-mall where a printing shop, a dry cleaner and a State Farm agent close up before sundown. But as you approach Gram's Kitchen after dark, you hear not only signs of life, but also boisterous live music pouring from the open doors. The place feels as if it were teleported from New Orleans' Bourbon Street itself. A jazz-and-blues band rocks the house on the weekends, and the food rivals anything produced by Emeril Lagasse and the late Paul Prudhomme. The red beans and rice, a soul-food dish that's a meal unto itself, gets topped with an oar-sized slab of succulent fried catfish cocooned in cornmeal. In the shrimp and grits, the heat of the cayenne travels from your face toward your legs, which, because of the music, will be eager to get out on the dance floor.

12 CENTERPOINTE DR., STE. 106, LA PALMA, (657) 255-4036, GRAMSKITCHENLAPALMA.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PICKLED MONK

BEST NEW RESTAURANT IN LONG BEACH

LITTLE VICE

From the design (Baja-meets-LA with a dash of Miami) to the beverages (a carefully selected list of natural wines and craft beers, as well as a house-made Michelada mix) to the food (near-equal quantity of vegan or carnivorous dishes laden with authentic Mexican flavors), not to mention the dessert (the best vegan churros possibly anywhere), Little Vice is the coolest spot in town. Come for Siesta Hour and enjoy discounted menu items while lounging on the patio. Bonus: Little Vice has its own parking lot.

3317 E. SEVENTH ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 343-7157; WWW.LITTLEVICE.COM.

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

DECK ON LAGUNA BEACH

Pretty much exactly what it is called, Deck On Laguna Beach is on a deck with a breathtaking view right off Pacific Coast Highway in Laguna Beach. It specializes in seafood, but you'll also find items such as cheeseburgers and chips and guacamole.

627 SLEEPY HOLLOW LANE, LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-6700; DECKONLAGUNA.COM

READERS' CHOICE: FARMHOUSE AT ROGER'S GARDENS

BEST OYSTERS

ZUBIES DRY DOCK

Aficionados of raw oysters know the location where you consume them does not matter. The freshest, brinest slime can be served at an inexpensive sushi stand, and a five-star restaurant's priciest oysters can go bad, forcing you to deposit your stomach contents in said five-star restroom's porcelain rig. Assuming all good oysters are equal, let us turn to the raw ones served ceviche-style at Zubies Dry Dock. A half-dozen

small, sweet, creamy oysters are buried in their shells under mounds of chopped onions, cilantro, tomatoes, green peppers and white fish. They are served on a bed of ice with six lemon wedges and little plastic containers of cocktail sauce and horseradish. Too unwieldy to pick up and slurp and too confetti-like to stay on your fork, the oysters require the accompaniment of tortilla chips to collect every last morsel.
9059 ADAMS AVE., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 963-6362, ZUBIESDRYDOCK.COM
READERS' CHOICE: SHUCK OYSTER BAR AND SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

BEST PANCAKES

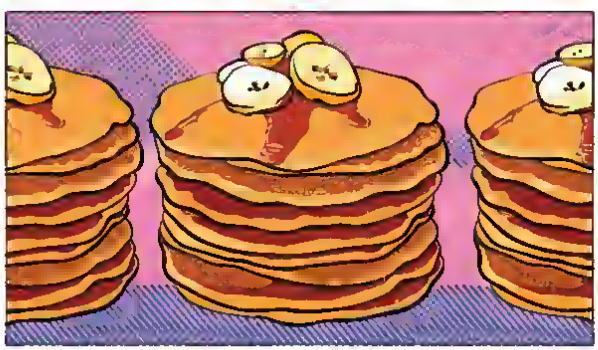
AUNT YESE'S HOME COOKING

Flapjacks never taste better than when they're homemade, and Aunt Yese's Home Cooking is the next best thing to your own kitchen. Though the plain, fluffy pancakes are amazing on their own, breakfast enthusiasts will want to get the "Special Pancakes," which mixes any combination of toppings—including chocolate chips, bananas and blueberries—right into the batter.
12444 BROOKHURST ST., GARDEN GROVE, (714) 512-6150; AUNTYESES.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: ORIGINAL PANCAKE HOUSE

BEST PERUVIAN RESTAURANT

HIGO CHICKEN

The menu at Luis Uechi's strip-mall restaurant is a laser-focused greatest-hits parade of Peruvian standards: arroz chaufa, saltado, tallarin saltado and ají de gallina. Nearly everything is cooked in a blazing-hot wok from which flames erupt in bursts. All the entrees are well-made, but none more so than the lomo saltado. There's not a single scrap of the steak that isn't soft and seared as though Vietnamese bo luc lac. And unlike other Peruvian restaurants that take the shortcut of using frozen fries for their saltado, Higo Chicken takes the extra step of cutting and frying the potato spears from scratch. When you add it up, it's small details such as these that make this place stand above the rest.
722 E. WHITTIER BLVD., LA HABRA, (562) 524-2026
READERS' CHOICE: INKA MAMA



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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST PHO

PHO VINA

It doesn't get much more hole-in-the-wall, mom-and-pop than this. The only thing complex about Pho Vina is the rich, earthy broth. It's so delicious it could be eaten on its own, but choosing toppings and fillings only add to the flavor. And you don't have to be running a fever to enjoy lightning-fast service.

5713 E. LA PALMA AVE., ANAHEIM, (714) 777-3785.

READERS' CHOICE: PHO 79

BEST PIE

SWEETCIE PIE

Karen Uyeda is the one-woman baking show behind the Irvine-based cottage bakery Sweetcie Pie, which offers an array of sumptuous baked goods, including fruit tarts, apple dumplings and pies made to order. Uyeda's pride and passion for pies is apparent in their quality and taste, from their delectable fillings to their crunchy, soft crusts. Options on her website shill traditional favorites such as cherry, peach and apple, as well as boysenberry, strawberry rhubarb and cherry amaretto (which won her the top prize at KCRW-FM's *Good Food* Pie Contest in 2017). Got something else on your mind? Uyeda says she's always willing to take requests.

SWEETCIEPIE.COM

READERS' CHOICE: POLLY'S PIES

BEST PIZZA

TONY'S LITTLE ITALY

Though Tony's Little Italy specializes in Chicago-style deep dish, it also offers a classic New York-style slice. But no matter your preference, you'll get an amazing pie that's worth the long wait. The chrome décor and checkered tiles only add to the authentic Italian experience.

1808 N. PLACENTIA AVE., STE. B, PLACENTIA, (714) 528-2159; WWW.TONYSLITTLEITALY.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE

BEST PUB

THE OLDE SHIP

Since 1993, the Olde Ship has been British expats' favorite watering hole for an authentic taste of home, as well as a tavern in which to watch matches and try trivia. Here, you'll find English favorites such as fish and chips, bangers and mash, and the best sticky toffee pudding around.

1120 W. 17TH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 550-6700; ALSO AT 709 N. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 871-7447, WWW.THEOLDESHIP.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG

BEST PUNK-ROCK BAR

CHAIN REACTION

For more than 20 years, Chain Reaction has been the first stop for many of Orange County's up-and-coming punk acts. The all-ages-welcome venue has long been a staple for anyone wanting to check out some fresh talent while moshing as though it were 1979. And for the 21-and-older crowd, beer is now on tap.

1652 LINCOLN AVE., ANAHEIM, (714) 635-6067, ALLAGES.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SLIDEBAR ROCK-N-ROLL KITCHEN

BEST RAMEN

KASHIWA RAMEN

If grandma's chicken noodle soup is a home cure-all, what's served at Kashiwa Ramen is prescription-strength. The viscosity of the liquid that lubricates the noodles is closer to hand lotion. It coats the spoon and doesn't so much pour as flow as if hot candle wax. And as it's exposed to cold air, the surface starts to congeal into a film. The best way to take your dose is to have it reduced even further as the dipping sauce for the tsukemen. As the naked noodles are dipped into it and slurped, all the nuances of the components coalesce: the acid tickle of the squeezed lime, the concentrated umami of the reduced-to-gravy soup, and the chewy comforts of the ramen. If you're not instantly cured of what ails you, you're at least going to feel a lot better, as your meal seems to coo, "There, there; everything's going to be all right."

1420 BAKER ST., STE. C, COSTA MESA, (657) 232-0223, THEKASHIWARAMEN.COM

READERS' CHOICE: SHIN SEN GUMI

BEST RESTAURANT

TACO MARÍA

Let it be known that before the Michelin Guide awarded Taco María a star this year—one of only two OC restaurants to receive the honor—we'd been writing and preaching about Carlos Salgado's Costa Mesa temple to high-end Mexican cuisine since it opened in 2011. Heck, we were already believers when he started Taco María as a food truck he named after the women in his family. Before any other publication, we lauded that modest first effort and his epoch-changing brick-and-mortar restaurant in nearly every Best Of Issue since. But as we now swell up with pride, we're also a bit wistful that Taco María's alta cocina prix-fixe meals are no longer Orange County's little secret. Worldwide acclaim has now made it hard to get a table. So when you do snag a reservation and hear someone in the dining room proclaiming, "We told you so!"—that'll be us.

3313 HYLAND AVE., STE. C-21, COSTA MESA, (714) 538-8444, TACOMARIA.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE BLIND PIG

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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST RIBS

LEADBELLY'S BBQ

Serving delicious American barbecue in more-than-generous portions, it's no wonder where the name of this joint came from. Start with a mouth-watering plate of pork burnt ends, but save room for the ribs. It's hard not to fall in love with meat treated to a well-balanced rub that's been cooked to perfection and falls right off the bone. Now there's a rib done right.

711 N. PLACENTIA AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 646-9560; WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEADBELLYS-BARBECUE-170803192946868/

READERS' CHOICE: NEWPORT RIB CO.

BEST ROOFTOP BAR

THE BUNGALOW

This log cabin-styled bar attracts an energetic crowd with its view of the Pacific Ocean and sounds of the 1990s. The terrace offers comfortable seating and outdoor fireplaces, as well as a bar. All of which make the Bungalow an ideal destination to relax and escape the hustle and bustle below of Huntington Beach's Main Street.

AT PACIFIC CITY, 21058 PACIFIC COAST HWY., STE. 240, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 374-0399; WWW.THEBUNGALOW.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: MOZAMBIQUE

BEST SANDWICH SHOP

SANDWICH SOCIETY

Get some bang for your buck while exciting your taste buds at Sandwich Society. This sandwich shop takes pride in crafting delicious options, whether your choice is hot or cold, hoagie or wrap, grilled cheese or bánh mì. And each one pairs well with Sandwich Society's fries or salads.

2031 E. FIRST ST., STE. A3, SANTA ANA, (714) 835-3878; WWW.THESANDWICHSOCIETY.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: BOARD AND BREW

BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

COASTAL KITCHEN

Though all the dishes utilize simple ingredients, everything at Coastal Kitchen is as satisfying as a day at the beach. Among the favorites are the seared ahi tuna salad, which is given a refreshing twist thanks to mangos, and the jumbo lump crab cake entrée, which is spiced up with a creole mustard sauce. And for an added treat, finish your meal with a slice of tangy Key lime pie.

34091 PACIFIC COAST HWY., DANA POINT, (949) 449-2822, WWW.COASTALKITCHENDANAPOINT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: WATER GRILL

BEST SHABU SHABU

MISS SHABU

All but one of the six cuts of beef Miss Shabu serves for your swishing pleasure are USDA Prime. This means that each paper-thin slice you order will exhibit a marbling pattern as intricate as lace, so everything you lower into the boiling broth essentially melts as it cooks. Each cut of beef you choose for your all-you-can-eat swish-a-thon—from the prime chuck eye to the brisket to the rib-eye to the top blade—disintegrates in your mouth. At the end of the meal, after you're nearly overdosed on beef, the waiter will dump rice into your now intensely concentrated boiling broth and turn it into a tableside Korean risotto—a creamy, starchy, umami-packed, slow-moving sludge that owes a debt of gratitude to the graders at the USDA.

5450 BEACH BLVD., STE. 102, BUENA PARK, (714) 464-3222, MISSSHABU.COM

READERS' CHOICE: TABU SHABU

BEST SIGNATURE COCKTAIL

SILLY RABBIT AT MIX MIX KITCHEN BAR

The Silly Rabbit is a vibrant cocktail that incorporates reposado tequila complemented with an herbaceous carrot and Thai chile syrup, lime juice, with a wonderful mezcal mist. The drink bursts with redolent notes and finishes with sweet spice.

300 N. MAIN ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 836-5158; WWW.MIXMIXKITCHENBAR.COM

READERS' CHOICE: THE DIPLOMAT AT THE BLIND PIG

BEST SPORTS BAR

LOPEZ & LEFTY'S SPORTS CANTINA

There are plenty of sports bars in Orange County, but Lopez & Lefty's in Anaheim pretty much nails all the major items. There are a bunch of TV screens, an impressive array of more than 25 beers, a menu full of great burgers, sandwiches, tacos and other fried things—and it's centrally located. Seriously, it's a sports bar, which is not that difficult to do right. Still, Lopez & Lefty's is a comfortable place to hang, even when the post-season isn't on the line.

1759 S. CLAUDINA WAY, ANAHEIM, (714) 300-0000; LOPEZANDLEFTYS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: TILTED KILT

BEST STEAK

ROYAL HAWAIIAN FIRE GRILL

Leave it to chef Maro Molteni (of Maro Wood Grill fame) and his brother Martin to class up an iconic establishment on Pacific Coast Highway. Maro's grilling prowess is what makes the beefy courses here sing, whether it's the Angus hanger or teriyaki rib-eye, you can count on a perfect, medium-rare (or medium, depending on your preference)

ode to meat. Royal Hawaiian's finishing touches of house-made chimichurri and pumpkin puree only enhance your meal.
31111 N COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 424-8988, WWW.ROYALHAWAIIANLB.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: MASTRO'S STEAKHOUSE

BEST SUSHI

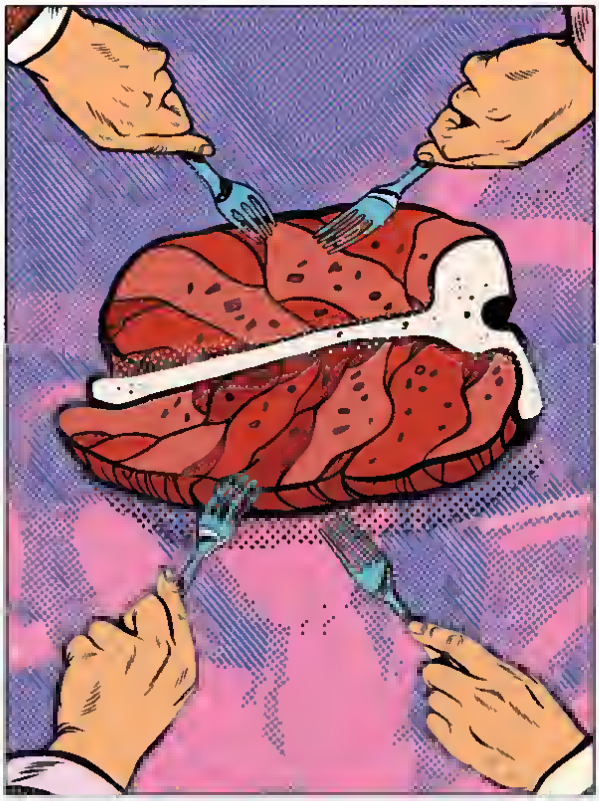
SUSHI NOGUCHI

The Japanese word *omakase* means "chef's choice," giving sushi masters a free license to serve you whatever they think best. But lately, the word has come to mean something more: an ultra-expensive, multicourse meal that can tick up to the triple digits. This is certainly the case at a certain Costa Mesa sushi restaurant that recently earned a Michelin star. But at Sushi Noguchi, the prix-fixe meal called "Jun's Omakase" has always retailed for the same price. There's a seared albacore salad to start, then a carpaccio of the day. Next is a sampler plate with a trio of cooked items, among them may be a fish-stuffed shishito tempura, a braised pork belly with hot mustard, or a crispy-fried shrimp katsu on a stick. After that, expect another raw fish dish to precede a four-piece nigiri. This might then be followed by a baked blue-crab hand roll so sweet it could double as dessert. What's served varies according to the season, but one thing remains constant: Jun's Omakase proves not only that you don't have to pay a premium for a quality experience, but also that omakase can mean "bargain."
18507 YORBA LINDA BLVD., YORBA LINDA, (714) 777-6789, SUSHINOGUCHI.COM
READERS' CHOICE: SUSHI NOGUCHI

BEST TACO

TACO MARÍA

At Taco María, the price of tortilla transcendence is worth every centavo. Though a pair of arrachera tacos costs $17 per plate, chef Carlos Salgado's masterpiece is a visual beauty from the blue-corn tortilla to the glazed Applewood bacon strip atop its fillings. And it tastes as good as it looks. A medium-rare hanger steak, roasted chiles and queso Oaxaca offer all the right hints of heat and tender smokiness. Of course, as with all of Salgado's menu items, the arrachera tacos are as ethical as they are tantalizing to the senses. The tortillas are heirloom and non-GMO, making for a titan of tacos in more ways than one.
3313 HYLAND AVE., COSTA MESA, (714) 538-8444, WWW.TACOMARIA.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: AVILA'S EL RANCHITO



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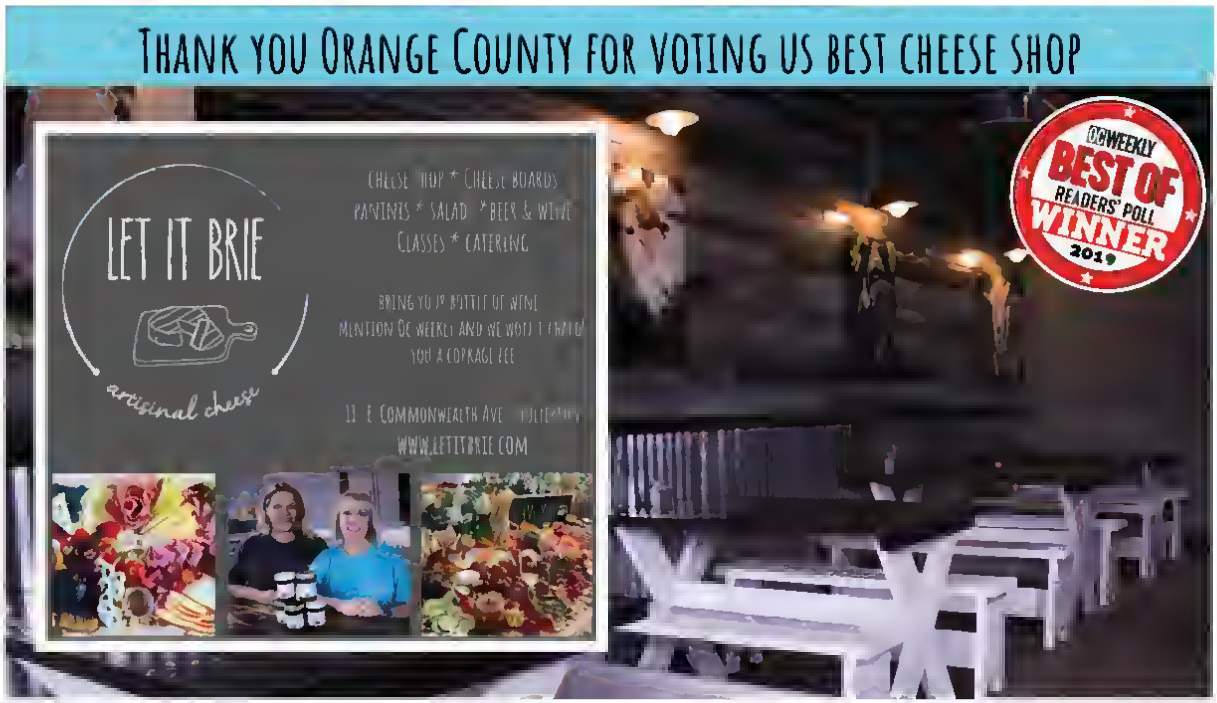
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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST TACO CATERING

TACOS ZAPATA

This family-owned catering service prides itself on making the best Mexican street tacos, ones that will have your guests begging you for the phone number. Tacos Zapata always shows up on time, offering not only asada, al pastor, carnitas, chorizo, pollo and grilled veggies, but also lengua, cabeza and tripa.

1330 S. BROOKHURST RD., FULLERTON, (714) 870-1812. TACOSZAPATA.COM

READERS' CHOICE: AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

BEST TACO TUESDAY

TACO MESA TORTILLERIA ORGÁNICA & CAFÈ

At a restaurant that boasts quality deals five days a week, Taco Tuesday at Taco Mesa is the ultimate steal: seven different tacos are offered for $1.75 apiece, plus $3.75 margaritas all day. Locals favor the chile verde and beer-battered-fish options, but no matter what your choice, all are served on house-made, GMO-free corn tortillas. The lines run out the door during the dinner rush, so come early!

3533 E. CHAPMAN AVE., ORANGE, (714) 633-3922, WWW.TACOMESATORTILLERIA.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: HIDALGO'S COCINA & COCTELES

BEST TEA HOUSE

TRANQUIL TEA LOUNGE

This is not your grandma's tea house. From the moment you enter the Tranquil Tea Lounge's modern environs, your tension headache and stressed mindset exit. Sniff from jars of leaves before picking just the right variety of green, black, white, oolong, etc. to brew, then sit back and enjoy the peace—and maybe some scones, too.

106 W. WILSHIRE AVE, FULLERTON, (714) 869-3577; TRANQUIL-TEA-LOUNGE.MYSHOPIFY.COM.

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

SUTHA THAI

Despite its small location, Sutha Thai is chock-full of noodle-y goodness. Among its wonderful Thai dishes is the spicy noodles served with pad kee mow. The dish is seasoned to perfection and presented along with a colorful array of vegetables.

1161 IRVINE BLVD., TUSTIN, (714) 734-6100; WWW.SUTHATHAIKITCHEN.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THAI BASIL

BEST UNTRADITIONAL BURGER

NASHVILLE BBQ BURGER AT BURGER PARLOR

Take a trip to the South without ever leaving Orange County! Burger Parlor's Nashville BBQ Burger stays true to its name, with its tangy, sweet and spicy flavors. A patty rests inside a bun, surrounded by caramelized onion rings. Atop that is cheese and a couple of sticks of bacon. And, of course, this superb burger is flavored southern-style with barbecue sauce.

204 H. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 441-2003. ALSO AT 149 N. GLASSELL ST., ORANGE, (714) 602-8220; WWW.BURGERPARLOR.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PASTRAMI BURGER AT TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY

BEST VEGAN RESTAURANT

F&H SHACK

If the man who single-handedly takes your order, makes everything on the menu, then serves your food wasn't doing it at F&H Shack, he'd be doing so from a street cart someplace like Manhattan. And there would be lines down the block for his falafels, hummus and foul, the only three dishes he sells. Each is available as a plate or a sandwich, and all are vegan without even trying. Everything is so well-made it wouldn't occur to you that just one man is responsible.

512 S. BROOKHURST ST., STE B, ANAHEIM, (714) 860-4266

READERS' CHOICE: SEABIRDS KITCHEN

BEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

AU LAC

For too long, the county's vegetarians had few choices for eating out, but we're now in an age when even fast-food joints serve meat-free burgers—vegetarian restaurants needed to up their game. Au Lac remains competitive by continuing to serve stupendously flavored, plant-based Vietnamese food without taking any shortcuts. The clay-pot of "fish" is particularly good, partially because of the black pepper, but mostly because the fake fish truly tastes great.

16563 BROOKHURST ST., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, (714) 418-0658; AULAC.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: TRUE FOOD KITCHEN

BEST VIETNAMESE ICED COFFEE

7 LEAVES

For a new twist on an expat favorite, 7 Leaves offers its creamy Vietnamese iced coffee topped with whipped cream and a dusting of cinnamon. The company's founders learned coffee-brewing techniques in Vietnam, then brought the process to the U.S. to share with local espresso-lovers.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.7LEAVESCAFE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: 7 LEAVES

BEST VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

PHO THANH BINH

Not only is Pho Thanh Binh good for the body and soul, but it's also good for the wallet. In addition to heaping portions of pho, the Vietnamese curries explode with flavor—and with the help of one of the Sriracha bottles on each table, they can have a real kick, too.

107 VIA PICO PLAZA, SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 369-3879.

READERS' CHOICE: BAMBOO BISTRO

BEST WAFFLES

MAMA'S ON 39

Belgian waffles are a dime a dozen nowadays—unless you're eating at Mama's On 39. Add buttermilk fried chicken for a down-home treat ... or ice cream to transform it into a sweet dessert. But the best version is the classic breakfast staple, which is available to satisfy your desires at any time here.

21022 BEACH BLVD., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 374-1166; ALSO AT 11122 LOS ALAMITOS BLVD., LOS ALAMITOS, (562) 357-6970; AND 2601 W. COAST HWY., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 447-5444, WWW.MAMASON39.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: BRUXIE

BEST WATERFRONT DINING

TACKLE BOX

While many OC dining rooms overlook the Pacific Ocean, how many allow you to eat with your toes in the sand? The flagship location of Tackle Box is an easygoing spot right on Corona del Mar state beach. Get there early for sunny chilaquiles, or hang for lunch and inhale buffalo cauliflower and "Cali" cheesesteak. Top Chef alumnus Brian Huskey's menu is a feast for both your eyes and your taste buds.

3029 E. SHORE AVE., CORONA DEL MAR, (949) 723-0502; WWW.TACKLEBOXOC.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: TANNER'S

BEST WHISKEY BAR

BOSSCAT KITCHEN LIBATIONS

Bosscat's menu lists whiskeys from [deep breath] Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky (which takes up about two pages), Michigan, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Canada, Japan, Ireland and Scotland (which is broken up by Highlands, Lowlands, Campbeltown, Speyside, Islands, Islay and blended Scotches). Next to each whiskey is its per-bottle price, which ranges from $8 to $340 (for the 32-year-old Islay Laphroaig). Various flights are available, too. Bosscat, which also serves meals and appetizers that appeal to all ages, is such a winning formula that its Newport Beach-based owners opened a second location in Houston in 2016, and there's an Orange spot scheduled for 2020.

4647 MACARTHUR BLVD., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 333-0917, BOSSCATKITCHEN-NEWPORT.COM

READERS' CHOICE: CHAPTER ONE THE MODERN LOCAL

BEST WINE BAR

WINE LAB

The tranquility of the shopping center surrounding it spills into the Wine Lab, which is airy and welcoming despite its small size. Guests can choose to sit at tables lining the walls or around the U-shaped bar. On one end of that U are taps for craft beers, while the other end is reserved for featured red and white wines, which can come from California, Oregon, Washington or Europe. You can also order bottled wines and beers, glasses of port, ice wines, and hard kombucha. There are tasting flights of wines or beers, which are cheaper during happy hours, and helping to further enliven the senses (and soak up the alcohol) are flatbreads, intriguing cheeses and charcuterie platters. Make sure to save room for the warm chocolate cookies with chocolate sauce.

29ST BRISTOL ST., STE. A1018, COSTA MESA, (714) 850-1780; WINELAB.NET

READERS' CHOICE: THE CELLAR

BEST WINE SHOP

OC WINE MART

Leave it to Julie Lim to take wine (and beer) shopping to the next level. In addition to an extensive selection of self-serve pours to sample, OC Wine Mart has aisles of desirable bottles and seating galore at which to enjoy them. Factor in the wine mart's cheeky BTS ("Better Than Sex") burritos and deli options, and you've got the makings of a leisurely meal, too.

1691 E. LINCOLN AVE., ORANGE, (714) 202-5886. WWW.OCWINEMART.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

BEST WINGS

WINGSTOP

Okay, we know what you are thinking: How can Wingstop be the best when it's a chain across the United States? But wing-lovers swear by Wingstop's wings. There are more than 15 flavors to choose from, and you can order them bone-in or bone-out. Plus, the fries serve as the perfect complement to the birds.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WINGSTOP.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: MUTT LYNCH'S

GREEK APÓLA GRILL

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

BEST OF WINNER 2019

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949.474.GYRO (4976)

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buy any regular priced entree & 2 drinks get 2nd entrée **free**
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FOOD AND DRINK

BEST ACAI BOWLS
BANZAI BOWLS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; BANZAIBOWLS.COM.

BEST BAGELS
SHIRLEY'S BAGELS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.SHIRLEYSBAGELS.COM.

BEST BAKERY
BLACKMARKET BAKERY
2951 BRISTOL, COSTA MESA, (714) 662-3095; ALSO AT 211 N. BROADWAY, SANTA ANA, (714) 571-0801; WWW.BLACKMARKETBAKERY.COM.

BEST BAR FOR DANCING
THE RANCH RESTAURANT & SALOON
1025 E. BALL RD., ANAHEIM, (714) 817-4200; THERANCH.COM.

BEST BAR IN LONG BEACH
JOE JOST'S
2803 E. ANAHEIM ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 439-5446, JOEJOSTS.COM.

BEST BARBECUE
HERITAGE BARBECUE
31721 CAMINO CAPISTRANO, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO; WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PG/HERITAGEBARBECUE

BEST BARTENDER
RAVIN BUZZELL AT CDM RESTAURANT
INSTAGRAM: @RAVINI.

BEST BEER SELECTION
THE BLIND PIG
31431 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY., RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, (949) 888-0072; WWW.THEBLINDPIGOC.COM.

BEST BIKINI BAR
GREEN GIRL SALOON
14341 BEACH BLVD., WESTMINSTER, (714) 897-8612, WWW.THEGREENGIRLSALOON.COM.

BEST BOBA
TASTEA
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.GOTASTEA.COM.

BEST BREAKFAST
TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY
1767 NEWPORT BLVD., COSTA MESA, (949) 873-5057; WWW.TOASTKITCHENBAKERY.COM.

BEST BREAKFAST BURRITO
MIGUEL'S JR.
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.MIGUELSJR.COM.

BEST BRUNCH
TREVOR'S AT THE TRACKS
26701 VERDUGO ST., SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, (949) 493-9593, WWW.TREVORSATTHETRACKS.COM.

BEST BURGER
IN-N-OUT BURGER
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.IN-N-OUT.COM.

BEST BURRITO
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; AVILASELRANCHITO.COM.

BEST BUTCHER SHOP
THE BUTCHERY QUALITY MEATS
MULTIPLE LOCATION; WWW.BUTCHERYMEATS.COM.

BEST CATERING SERVICE
SAPPHIRE CATERING
1200 S. COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 715-0144, WWW.SAPPHIRECATERING.COM.

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT
PEKING DRAGON
34171 PACIFIC COAST HWY., DANA POINT, (949) 493-9499; WWW.PEKINGDRAGONRESTAURANT.COM.

BEST CHEESE SHOP
LET IT BRIE
117 E. COMMONWEALTH AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 519-3094; WWW.LETITBRIE.COM.

BEST COFFEE
KÉAN COFFEE
2043 WESTCLIFF DR., STE. 100, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 642-5326, 13681 NEWPORT AVE., STE 14, TUSTIN, (714) 838-5326; WWW.KEANCOFFEE.COM.

BEST COFFEEHOUSE
KÉAN COFFEE
2043 WESTCLIFF DR., STE 100, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 642-5326, 13681 NEWPORT AVE., STE 14, TUSTIN, (714) 838-5326; WWW.KEANCOFFEE.COM.

BEST COLD BREW
PORTOLA COFFEE ROASTERS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; PORTOLACOFFEE.COM.

BEST CRAFT BEER SHOP
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS
250 OGLE ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 650-8463; WWW.HITIMEWINE.NET

BEST CRAFT COCKTAILS
THE BLIND PIG
31431 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY., RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, (949) 888-0072, WWW.THEBLINDPIGOC.COM.

BEST CUPCAKE
SPRINKLES CUPCAKES
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; SPRINKLES.COM.

BEST DATE NIGHT
FIVE CROWNS
3801 E. COAST HWY., CORONA DEL MAR, (949) 760-0331; WWW.LAWRYSONLINE.COM/FIVE-CROWNS/.

BEST DAY-DRINKING BAR
MUTT LYNCH'S
2300 W. OCEANFRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-1556, WWW.MUTTLYNCHS.COM.

BEST DELI
CORTINA'S ITALIAN MARKET
2175 W. ORANGE AVE., ANAHEIM, (714) 535-1948; CORTINASITALIANFOOD.COM/ANAHEIM.

BEST DESSERT
MIXED BAKERY
WWW.MIXED-BAKERY.COM.

BEST DIM SUM
DIN TAI FUNG
3333 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 549-3388; DINTAIFUNGUSA.COM.

BEST DINER
HARBOR HOUSE CAFE
34157 PACIFIC COAST HWY., DANA POINT, (949) 496-9270; ALSO AT 16341 PACIFIC COAST HWY., SUNSET BEACH, (562) 592-5404, WWW.HARBORHOUSECAFE.COM

BEST DISTILLERY
BLINKING OWL DISTILLERY
802 E. WASHINGTON AVE., SANTA ANA, (714) 852-3947; BLINKINGOWLDISTILLERY.COM.

BEST DIVE BAR
THE VINTAGE COCKTAIL LOUNGE
8550 CHAPMAN AVE., STANTON, (714) 462-6102; THEVINTAGE8550.COM.

BEST DOG-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
LAZY DOG CAFE
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.LAZYDOGRESTAURANTS.COM

BEST DOUGHNUT SHOP
SIDECAR DOUGHNUTS & COFFEE
270 E. 17TH ST., STE. 18, COSTA MESA, (949) 873-5424, WWW.SIDECARDOUGHNUTS.COM.

BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE
2300 SE BRISTOL ST., STE. F, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 852-9500; SGTPEPPS.COM.

BEST FARMERS' MARKET
IRVINE CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/IRVINE-FARMERS-MARKET/154726871208018.

BEST FISH TACO
BEAR FLAG FISH CO
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.BEARFLAGFISHCO.COM.

BEST FOOD HALL
4TH STREET MARKET
201 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 486-0700; WWW.4THSTREETMARKET.COM.

BEST FOOD STAND
HERITAGE BARBECUE
31721 CAMINO CAPISTRANO, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO; WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PG/HERITAGEBARBECUE

BEST FOOD TRUCK
SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE
2300 SE BRISTOL ST., STE. F, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 852-9500; SGTPEPPS.COM.

BEST FRENCH TOAST
TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY
1767 NEWPORT BLVD., COSTA MESA, (949) 873-5057; WWW.TOASTKITCHENBAKERY.COM.

BEST FRIED CHICKEN
THE CRACK SHACK
196 E. 17TH ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 383-5040; WWW.CRACKSHACK.COM.

BEST FRIES
CHAPTER ONE THE MODERN LOCAL
227 N. BROADWAY, SANTA ANA, (714) 352-2225, CHAPTERONETML.COM.

BEST GAY BAR
VELVET LOUNGE
416 W. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 664-0663; VELVETOC.COM.

BEST GREEK RESTAURANT
CHRISTAKIS GREEK CUISINE
13011 NEWPORT AVE., TUSTIN, (714) 731-6600; CHRISTAKISGREEKCUISINE.COM.

BEST HAPPY HOUR
THE BLIND PIG
31431 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY., RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, (949) 888-0072, WWW.THEBLINDPIGOC.COM.

BEST HOT DOGS
COSTCO MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.COSTCO.COM.

BEST ICE CREAM
RICH FARM ICE CREAM
901 E. YORBA LINDA BLVD., STE. F, PLACENTIA, (714) 854-7424, RICHFARMICECREAMCA.COM.

BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT
NATRAJ CUISINE OF INDIA
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.NATRAJUSA.COM.

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PEOPLE AND PLANET

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ST32 E. COAST HWY., CORONA DEL MAR, (949) 877-0046; ALSO AT 3012 NEWPORT BLVD., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-6262, MAMADSITALIAN.COM.

BEST JAPANESE RESTAURANT
ANJIN
3033 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 979-6700; ANJINRESTAURANT.COM.

BEST JUICE OR SMOOTHIE
NEKTER
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.NEKTERJUICEBAR.COM.

BEST KOREAN BARBECUE
GEN KOREAN BBQ
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.GENKOREANBBQ.COM.

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT
MR. BBQ
305 N. STATE COLLEGE BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 441-0000; MRBBQFULLERTON.COM.

BEST LATE-NIGHT DINING
SOCIAL COSTA MESA
512 W. 19TH ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 642-2425; WWW.SOCIALRG.COM.

BEST LOBSTER ROLL
SLAPFISH
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.SLAPFISHRESTAURANT.COM.

BEST LOCAL BREWERY, LONG BEACH
BALLAST POINT BREWING
110 N. MARINA DR., LONG BEACH, (562) 296-4470; WWW.BALLASTPOINT.COM.

BEST LOCAL BREWERY, NORTH COUNTY
GOLDEN ROAD BREWING
2210 E. ORANGEWOOD AVE., ANAHEIM, (714) 912-4015; WWW.GOLDENROAD.LA.

BEST LOCAL BREWERY, SOUTH COUNTY
LEFT COAST BREWING
1251 PUERTA DEL SOL, SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 276-2699; ALSO AT 6652 IRVINE CENTER DR., IRVINE, (949) 387-5170; LEFTCOASTBREWING.COM.

BEST LOCAL IPA
THE GREAT ONE FROM FOUR SONS BREWERY
18421 GOTHARD ST., STE 100, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 584-7301; WWW.FOURSONSBREWING.COM.

BEST LOCAL SOUR BEER
PLUM SAISON FROM UNSUNG BREWING CO
500 S. ANAHEIM BLVD., ANAHEIM, (714) 406-3098; WWW.UNSUNGBREWING.COM.

BEST LOCAL WINERY
ORANGE COAST WINERY
869 W. 16TH ST., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 645-0400; WWW.ORANGECOASTWINERY.COM.

BEST MARGARITA
PLAYA MESA
428 E. 17TH ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 287-5292; WWW.PLAYAMESA.COM.

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; AVILASELRANCHITO.COM.

BEST MICHELADAS
HIDALGO S COCINA & COCTELES
305 N. HARBOR BLVD., STE. 111, FULLERTON, (714) 447-3202, HIDALGOFULLERTON.COM.

BEST MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
HB PITA GRILL
19893 BROOKHURST ST, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 964-7482, WWW.HBPITAGRILL.COM.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, LONG BEACH
ALEX'S BAR
2913 E. ANAHEIM ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 434-8292, WWW.ALEXSBAR.COM.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, NORTH OC
THE CELLAR
305 N HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 525-5682; CELLARDINING.COM.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, SOUTH OC
SIDE DOOR
3801 E. COAST HWY., CORONA DEL MAR, (949) 717-4322, WWW.LAWRYSONLINE.COM/SIDEDOOR-CORONA-DEL-MAR/

BEST NEW LOCAL BREWERY
SALTY BEAR BREWING CO
2948 RANDOLPH AVE., STE.C, COSTA MESA, WWW.SALTYBEARBREWING.COM.

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
PICKLED MONK
101 N. HARBOR BLVD., STE. 100, FULLERTON, (714) 793-9100; PICKLEDMONK.COM.

BEST OUTDOOR DINING
FARMHOUSE AT ROGER'S GARDENS
2301 SAN JOAQUIN HILLS RD., CORONA DEL MAR, (949) 640-1415; FARMHOUSERG.COM.

BEST OYSTERS
SHUCK OYSTER BAR AND SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
3313 HYLAND, STE. A1, COSTA MESA, (949) 420-0478; WWW.SHUCKOYSTERBAR.COM.

BEST PANCAKES
ORIGINAL PANCAKE HOUSE
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; ORIGINALPANCAKEHOUSE.COM.

BEST PERUVIAN RESTAURANT
INKA MAMA
3930 S. BRISTOL ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 557-6262; INKAMAMAS.COM.

BEST PHO
PHO 79
9941 HAZARD AVE., GARDEN GROVE, (714) 531-2490; WWW.PHO79.COM

BEST PIE
POLLY'S PIES
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.POLLYSPIES.COM

BEST PIZZA
SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE.
2300 SE BRISTOL ST., STE. F, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 852-9500; SGTPEPPS.COM.

BEST PUB
THE BLIND PIG
31431 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY., RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, (949) 888-0072, WWW.THEBLINDPIGOC.COM.

BEST PUNK-ROCK BAR
SLIDEBAR ROCK-N-ROLL KITCHEN
122 E. COMMONWEALTH AVE., FULLERTON,(714) 871-2233, WWW.SLIDEBARFULLERTON.COM.

BEST RAMEN
SHIN SEN GUMI
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, SHINSENGUMIGROUP.COM.

BEST RESTAURANT
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31431 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY., RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, (949) 888-0072; WWW.THEBLINDPIGOC.COM.

BEST RIBS
NEWPORT RIB CO.
2196 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, (949) 631-2110; WWW.RIBCOMPANY.COM.

BEST ROOFTOP BAR
MOZAMBIQUE
1740 S. COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 715-7777, MOZAMBIQUEOC.COM.

BEST SANDWICH SHOP
BOARD AND BREW
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; BOARDANDBREW.COM.

BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
WATER GRILL
3300 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 208-7060; WATERGRILL.COM.

BEST SHABU SHABU
TABU SHABU
333 E. 17TH ST., STE. 19, COSTA MESA, (949) 642-2660; ALSO AT 16821 ALGONQUIN ST., STE 102, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 951-9204, TABUSHABU.COM.

BEST SIGNATURE COCKTAIL
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31431 SANTA MARGARITA PKWY., RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, (949) 888-0072, WWW.THEBLINDPIGOC.COM.

BEST SPORTS BAR
TILTED KILT
1625 W. KATELLA AVE., ORANGE, (714) 633-5458; TILTEDKILT.COM.

BEST STEAK
MASTRO S STEAKHOUSE
633 ANTON BLVD., COSTA MESA, (714) 546-7405, WWW.MASTROSRESTAURANTS.COM.

BEST SUSHI
SUSHI NOGUCHI
18507 YORBA LINDA BLVD., YORBA LINDA, (714) 777-6789; SUSHINOGUCHI.COM.

BEST TACO
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; AVILASELRANCHITO.COM.

BEST TACO CATERING
AVILA'S EL RANCHITO
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; AVILASELRANCHITO.COM.

BEST TACO TUESDAY
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305 N. HARBOR BLVD., STE. 111, FULLERTON, (714) 447-5202; HIDALGOFULLERTON.COM.

BEST THAI RESTAURANT
THAI BASIL
2431 E. CHAPMAN AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 738-0888; WWW.THAIBASILATFULLERTON.COM.

BEST UNTRADITIONAL BURGER
PASTRAMI BURGER AT TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY
1767 NEWPORT BLVD., COSTA MESA, (949) 873-5057; WWW.TOASTKITCHENBAKERY.COM.

BEST VEGAN RESTAURANT
SEABIRDS KITCHEN
2930 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 549-2584, ALSO AT 975 E. FOURTH ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 317-5545; SEABIRDSKITCHEN.COM.

BEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
TRUE FOOD KITCHEN
451 NEWPORT CENTER DR., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 644-2400; TRUEFOODKITCHEN.COM.

BEST VIETNAMESE ICED COFFEE
7 LEAVES
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.7LEAVESCAFE.COM.

BEST VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
BAMBOO BISTRO
2600 E. COAST HWY., STE. 160, CORONA DEL MAR, (949) 720-1289; WWW.VIETBAMBOOBISTRO.COM.

BEST WAFFLES
BRUXIE
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; BRUXIE.COM.

BEST WATERFRONT DINING
TANNER'S
21080 PACIFIC COAST HWY., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 698-6130; TANNERSHB.COM.

BEST WHISKEY BAR
CHAPTER ONE: THE MODERN LOCAL
227 N. BROADWAY, SANTA ANA, (714) 352-2225; CHAPTERONETML.COM.

BEST WINE BAR
THE CELLAR
305 N HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 525-5682; CELLARDINING.COM.

BEST WINE SHOP
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS
250 OGLE ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 650-8463; WWW.HITIMEWINE.NET

BEST WINGS
MUTT LYNCH'S
2300 W. OCEANFRONT, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 675-1556; WWW.MUTTLYNCHS.COM.

World Mission Society Church of God Believes in God the Mother

Receives Top Honor for Volunteerism

The ability to save lives and make the world a better place is not limited to movie screens. Real-life superheroes walk among us in plain clothes. They could be your colleague, your next door neighbor, or that guy standing in line in front of you every morning buying coffee. They may look like your average Joe, but something about their hearts makes them different. The real superheroes are volunteers: people who willingly sacrifice their time and efforts to help complete strangers in need – only because they want to make the world a better place.

To acknowledge the outstanding work of volunteers and their great contribution to the community, Queen Elizabeth II presented the World Mission Society Church of God in the United Kingdom with the empire's most prestigious award for volunteerism: the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Through the award, the Church of God is now a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire – a designation for exemplary organizations – and is recognized by 53 members of the Commonwealth of Nations, including Australia, Canada, India, South Africa, and Singapore.

This award motivated the 3 million members of the Church of God to recommit themselves to serving the global community. After receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, General Pastor Kim Joo-cheol of the Church of God shared, "Our church believes in Heavenly Mother and wishes all people of the world to live a happy life by putting the love of Mother in their hearts through voluntary works." The volunteers' portfolio includes disaster relief, blood drives, environmental protection, social services, healing through art and campaigns to make people smile.

"The World Mission Society Church of God contributes to the peace of humankind by following the teachings of Heavenly Mother, transcending boundaries of race, culture, nationality and religion," said General Pastor Kim Joo-cheol.

It is said we experience temporary happiness when others do something good for us. But we experience lasting joy when we do something good for others. The Church of God invites all people of the global village to work together and share in the lasting joy of volunteerism.

TOP AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

In addition to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Work, the Church of God has received the Presidential Group Citation from the Republic of South Korea in 2015 and the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award in 2011, 2014, twice in 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Both awards are presented to groups who have made significant contributions to their communities and their nation.

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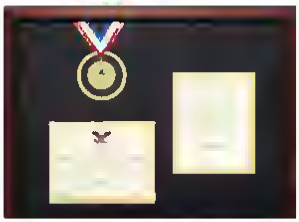

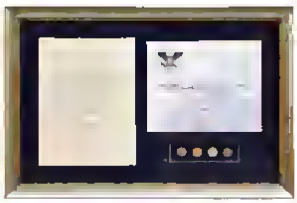

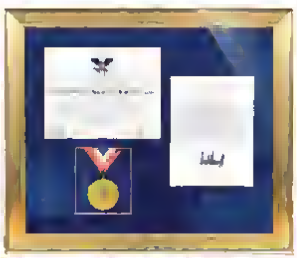

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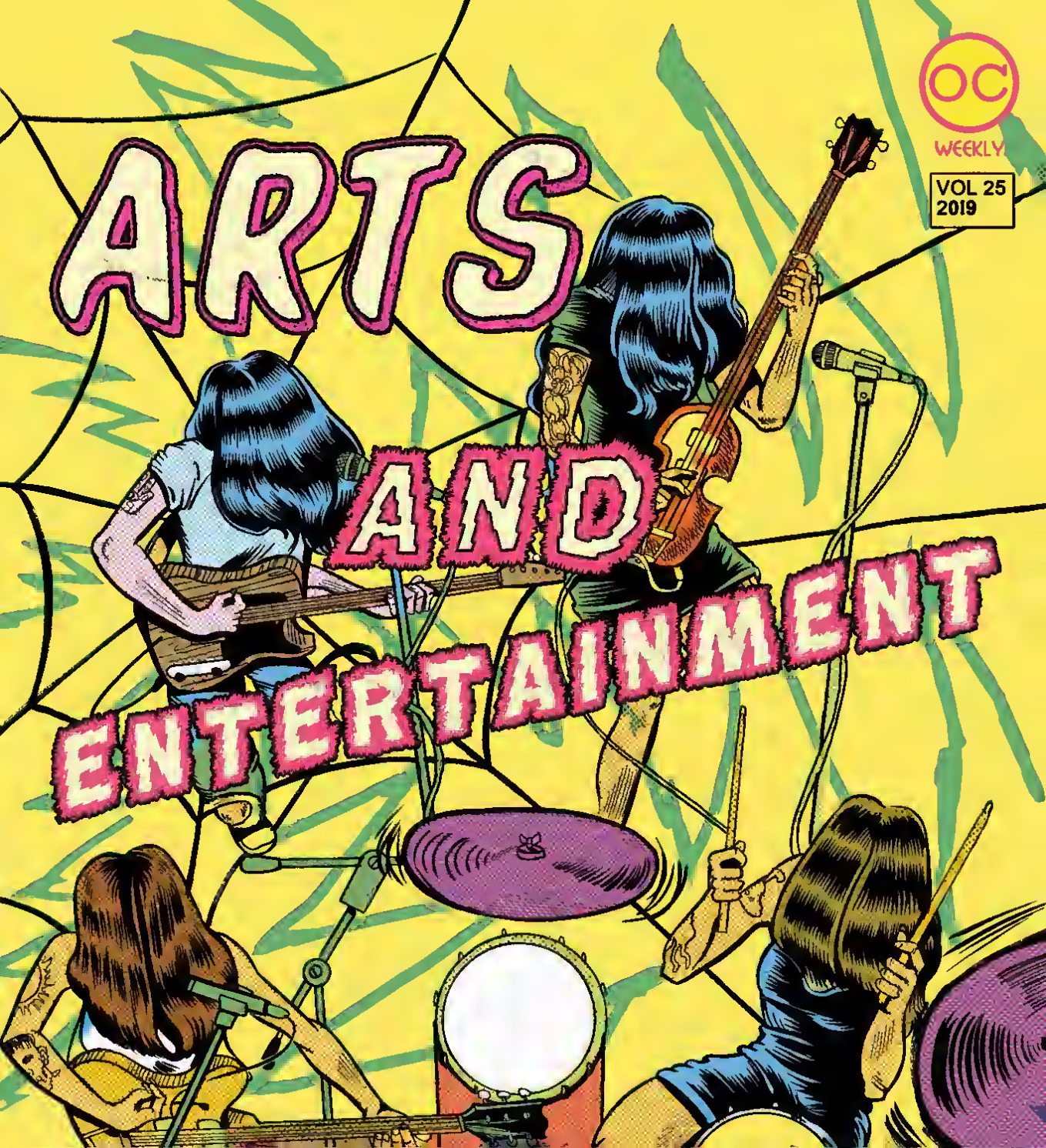
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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BEST ACTOR

WYN MORENO

We give a shit in this country about mental illness for about two days a month—usually the day after a mass shooting occurs—and then we move on. But Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt's 2010 Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Next to Normal* is a compelling reminder that some can't move on: those who live in it 24/7, as well as those who care the most about them. In the Wayward Artist's April production, Wyn Moreno's portrayal of the frustrated, self-sacrificing and near-hopeless husband of the woman at the play's center was a fully realized performance that struck the perfect balance of love for, as well as resentment of, victims of a disease that takes just as exacting a toll on those who care as on those who carry.

BEST ACTRESS

ERICA SHAEFFER AND JACQUELINE WRIGHT

Both Erica Shaeffer and Jacqueline Wright played keenly intelligent women, one an academically driven, overachieving high-school senior whose mother is playing hide-and-seek with reality; the other a former neurologist-turned-anti-dementia-drug hawker slowly slipping into dementia herself. And though Shaeffer was a supporting character in the Wayward Artist's production of *Next to Normal* and Wright a lead in the Chance Theater's *The Other Place*, their performances showed that hurling one's self into one's work is as much reaction as it is action. Fear and confusion were the last things these self-involved characters seemed to care about, yet both portrayals revealed that what these characters didn't want to show is what they were feeling most.

BEST ART GALLERY

BREA GALLERY

Curator/gallery director Heather Bowling's work here is consistently bright, thoughtful and bold. Never crowded, but still bursting with art, Brea Gallery offers artists in full command of their medium (with the work of women featured more prominently than in any other city gallery we can think of). Bowling's interactive education areas, hidden in the corners of each exhibition, offer space for patron art as inspiring as that hanging on the walls.

1 CIVIC CENTER CIRCLE, STE. 1, BREA, (714) 990-7730, WWW.BREAGALLERY.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: BREA GALLERY

BEST ART MUSEUM

ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

It's easy to forget the Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) is still around without Richard Jarkson's big blark dog taking a piss on it. Though OCMA may be more diminutive—hiding in South Coast Village while its buildout continues near Segerstrom Center—the intimacy of its current space only boosts the insight and diversity of the art inside. Seek it out.

1661 W. SUNFLOWER AVE., SANTA ANA, (714) 780-2130, WWW.OCMAEXPAND.ORG.

READERS' CHOICE: FULLERTON ART MUSEUM

BEST CLUB DJ

DJ DENNIS OWENS

With an extensive arsenal of soul, funk and Afro-Latin vinyl records, Dennis Owens is far from the typical Top 40 club DJ. Nevertheless, he's been a SoCal staple for more than 20 years. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Good Foot, the Long Beach funk-and-soul club night he co-founded with Rodi Delgadillo. Despite a brief hiatus and a venue change, the event (which now takes place the third Friday of every month at Alex's Bar) is living proof that good music can bring people together, regardless of how old or obscure it might be.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DJ-DENNIS-OWENS-288090415193354.

READERS' CHOICE: HORNY WAVE

BEST CULTURAL CENTER

MUZEO MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

Southern California is known for being a hub for all people and all cultures, a trait demonstrated well at the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center. Its wide variety of exhibits that rotate seasonally present a new opportunity any time you visit. Whether you're grabbing cheap general-admission tickets or participating in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, you'll be blown away by the wealth of cultural knowledge displayed here.

241 S. ANAHEIM BLVD., ANAHEIM, (714) 765-6450, MUZEO.ORG.

BEST DRAG SHOW

MAIN STREET BAR & CABARET

With spectacular shows every Wednesday, Orange County's oldest gay-owned historic bar is full of positive vibes. Led by Endora, these queens are sick! Main Street Bar & Cabaret offers bingo, drinks and popcorn, too—it's truly a fun-for-all.

1460 S. COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-0056, WWW.MAINSTREET-BAR.COM.

BEST EXPERIMENTAL BAND

EMÆL

The band's smooth, lo-fi tones are fantastic, especially when accentuated by R&B-inspired sounds. EMÆL are like a smooth port on a hot day, gently turning everything else into a fuzz. Experimenting with a variety of sounds and electronic additions, EMÆL manage to never be abrasive, remaining extremely palatable at any time.

EMAEL.BANDCAMP.COM.

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Artists, dates, and programs are subject to change.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BEST FESTIVAL

EAST END BLOCK PARTY

One day a year, downtown Santa Ana transforms into a full-fledged music-and-arts festival. And this year, the event raised the bar, flooding the streets of East End with an eclectic mix of graffiti artists, local vendors and performers. On six stages, the fest featured music for everyone, including local indie bands, rappers and DJs. Internationally recognized rapper/producer Hopsin even made a surprise appearance to close out the main stage. On top of all that, it's completely free to attend. This festival is truly a celebration of contemporary OC culture.

WWW.EASTENDBLOCKPARTY.COM

BEST FILM FEST

ORANGE COUNTY FILM FESTIVAL

Since 2003, the Orange County Film Festival has showcased young, local talent bringing their A-game to the industry. From fully fledged short films to commercials, the January festival offers a myriad of awards to the future of the industry, whose screenings inspire confidence.

4515 PORTOLA PKWY., IRVINE.
WWW.OCFF.ORG/FESTIVAL.
READERS' CHOICE: NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

BEST HIP-HOP ACT

WEAPONS OF MASS CREATION

The Anaheim-based seven-piece hip-hop collective Weapons of Mass Creation have an arsenal of talent at their fingertips. They made that abundantly clear when they arrived on the scene with tranquil tunes for turbulent times. Not only do they seamlessly weave hip-hop with soul and cumbia, but the group do it with live musicians who double as MCs and crooners. Weapons of Mass Creation's newest album, *Labor of Love*, displays a much-matured sound, with the band playing to their strengths by taking a focused approach. On "Neighborhood Watch," a trio of rappers rhyme over the infectious bump-worthy beat, while Joules handles the chorus with her velvety vocals. A hint of reggae gives "Old Enough" its flavor, as Moe Buddah drums and rhymes. And this time, Joules backs up Naps' rich baritone after dropping raps of her own. Too much of a good thing ain't bad when you know how to hone and own it.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WEAPONSOFMASSCREATION714
READERS' CHOICE: ANDERSON PAAK

BEST INDIE BAND

SLICE

Originally from Long Beach, this band's clever, original songwriting is always fun to listen to amid all the Mitski clones in the indie-music scene. Slice are less riot grrrl than quiet grrrl, and "Horchata Teeth," in particular, stands out with its sense of whimsy and lackadaisical appeal.

WWW.SLICEBAND.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: ALRIGHT SPIDER

BEST INDIE FILM THEATER

THE ART THEATRE

Capture the feeling of childlike wonder at this old-school indie theater. Limited screenings from a rich gallery of niche films, documentaries and classics allow audiences to have an intimate relationship with any movie they watch here. Plus, the Art The-

atre hosts an array of special events, including Q Films—LGBTQ Film Festival, the Cambodia Town Film Festival, Dan Savage's HUMP! Film Festival and more.
2025 E. FOURTH ST., LONG BEACH. (562) 438-5435. ARTTHEATRELONGBEACH.ORG.
READERS' CHOICE: THE FRIDA CINEMA

BEST JAZZ BAND

DEREK BORDEAUX

Derek Bordeaux and his band appear at practically every jazz venue across Orange County, from small clubs to the Newport Beach Jazz Festival, bringing down the house each time with their wonderfully bombastic covers. From Earth Wind and Fire to Stevie Wonder, they inject new life into old hat.
WWW.THEDEREKBORDEAUXGROUP.COM.

BEST KARAOKE

LINBROOK BOWLING

Deep within Anaheim's Linbrook Bowling center sits its fabulous Kopa room, decked out with a glowing disco ball and where, for one night, anyone can be a star at X-treme Karaoke. Whether you arrive early or come in after bowling a few games, the karaoke jockey has your song choice on lock, while the crowd hypes you up to belt out songs with passionate abandon. Even for onlookers, this is one helluva entertaining way to spend an evening, as you witness people *really* getting into it—plus, the fun, communal energy in the room will make your heart swell. Choose from a huge variety of popular tunes, then feel as if you're on top of the world for a few minutes onstage; and if you're one of those shy types, the Kopa's bar can provide plenty of liquid courage.
201 S. BROOKHURST ST., ANAHEIM. (714) 774-2253. LINBROOKBOWL.NET
READERS' CHOICE: THE WAYFARER

BEST LIVE COVER BAND

TALKING THREADS: TALKING HEADS DANCE MUSIC TRIBUTE

Since their debut at Mozambique in Laguna Beach this past February, Talking Threads have taken SoCal by storm. From performances at local restaurants, private events, weddings and Bat Mitzvahs, the band not only incorporate theatrical dancing, but also witty banter between sets to keep audiences dancing and laughing. Their set list contains the Talking Heads' greatest hits, as well as other popular '80s songs to keep performances fun and fresh. Wherever they are, expect them to be burning down the house.
INSTAGRAM: @TALKINGTHREADSTRIBUTEBAND
READERS' CHOICE: YACHTY BY NATURE

BEST LOCAL CELEBRITY

JACKSON THE GSP

Jackson "Jackie Chan" is a German shorthaired pointer with huge paws, floppy ears and a wonderfully pouty face. You can find Jackson on Instagram, often chasing a beloved tennis ball at his OC home or at Rosie's Dog Beach in Long Beach. He's only been on Instagram since June 2018, but in that time, he has racked up a very respectable 3,879 followers. No, he's not as popular as Aragon the Cat (the Laguna Beach feline who played Lord Tubbington on *Glee* but died in December 2018), but Jackson's a good dog. Such a good dog!
INSTAGRAM: @JACKSON.THE.GSP.
READERS' CHOICE: VINCE FERRAGAMO

BEST LOCAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

DAY OF MUSIC FULLERTON

Part of the Fête de la Musique, which is celebrated in more than 1,000 cities around the world, Day of Music Fullerton is all about bringing music-lovers together. This year, the event featured more than 150 free performances from hip-hop, folk and rock artists in more than 40 venues around the city. There were also free workshops and activities for those who don't consider themselves professional musicians, but still wanted to make some noise.
WWW.THEDAYOFMUSIC.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: OC PARKS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

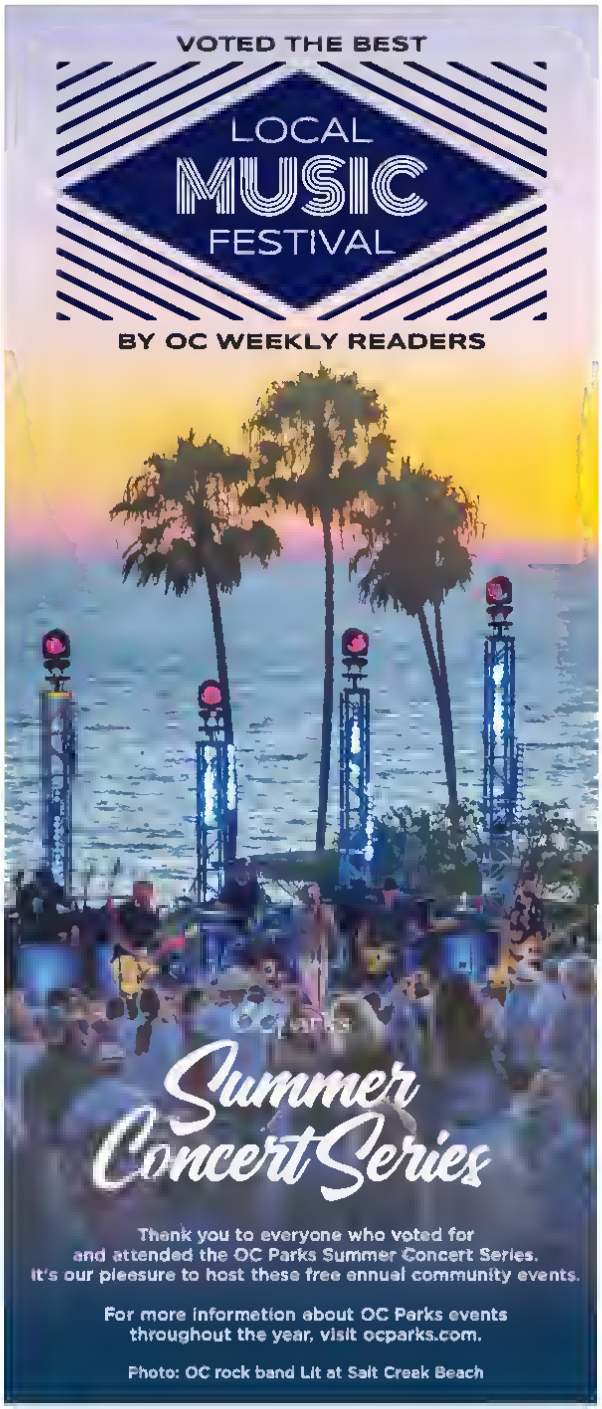
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Photo: OC rock band Lit at Salt Creek Beach

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Back Bay Bistro

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Saturday, Oct 26
Bayside Tent Canopy

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
Ft. The Como Lo Flor Band
A Tribute to Seleno
Saturday, Nov 2
Bayside Tent Canopy

LIKE ZEPPELIN
Saturday, Nov 2
Back Bay Bistro

SINBARG ENSEMBLE & THE MARROW
Sunday, Nov 3
Back Bay Bistro

JUSTIN ABRAMS & BEYOND CONCEPTION
w/ Steve Moggioro & Jackie Pember
Friday, Nov 8
Back Bay Bistro

TIJUANA DOGS
Saturday, Nov 30
Bayside Tent Canopy

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Bayside Tent Canopy

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BEST LOCAL PODCAST

ON OC

When *Voice of OC* started a podcast years ago, the recording quality sounded right out of a reporter's basement with too much navel-gazing journo talk. After a lengthy lull, the news website rebooted its efforts last year. Editor Norberto Santana Jr. helmed the mic for *On OC* and dedicated a series of shows to the county's most pressing news of the day. The production quality vastly improved and accompanied sharply focused interviews with newsmakers who are shaping county life. It all made for an intriguing and engaging listen. But then *On OC* took an unexplained hiatus in the lead-up to a special election for the Board of Supervisors. With OC being podcast-poor, let's hope it's not an indefinite one.

WWW.VOICEOFOC.ORG/PODCAST

READERS' CHOICE *I DOUBT IT WITH DOLLEMORE*

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY

POORMAN

Shocking and jocking since 1981, Jim "Poorman" Trenton doesn't seem to know how to stop. He continues to entertain listeners, now on KOCI-FM 101.5 with *Poorman's Morning Rush*, the show brings plenty of excitement. The Poorman's aura of unpredictability—both good and bad—defines his legend!

READERS' CHOICE *EMO ON KOCI-FM*

BEST LOCAL RADIO STATION

HITS101 RADIO

Started by Milad "DJ X-Hail" Eskandari in 2014, Irvine-based Hits101 Radio is among the fastest-expanding independent radio stations in Orange County. There is one catch. Hits101 is not (yet) broadcast over the free airwaves, but rather is a commercial-free station that can only be accessed online or through a smartphone app. Here's hoping that changes someday because the station has provided hundreds of Orange County musicians with a platform while also welcoming world-famous artists. Just ask devoted fans throughout the county, the rest of the U.S., South America, Europe and China.

WWW.HITS101RADIO.COM

READERS' CHOICE *KOCI 101.5*

BEST MOVIE THEATER

EDWARDS IRVINE SPECTRUM 21 AND IMAX

In the beige city of Irvine, the Spectrum stands out as a colorful gem—and the Edwards Irvine Spectrum 21 Theater is no different. The bright, buzzing, neon lights mixed with the regal design help it stand out as a quintessential American movie theater that feels lost in time. Plus, its IMAX theaters elevate any movie you see.

670 SPECTRUM CENTER DR., IRVINE, (949) 450-4920; WWW.REGMOVIES.COM/THEATRES/REGAL-EDWARDS-IRVINE-SPECTRUM-SCREENX-IMAX-RPX-VIP

READERS' CHOICE *THE FRIDA CINEMA*

BEST MUSEUM

MUZEO MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

With children separated from their families at the border and kept in cages, Muzeo boldly programmed an exhibition about Japanese internment camps. Called "I Am an American, Japanese Incarceration In a Time of Fear," the museum had the temerity to stand up and address the current political climate, while being funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior. God bless them.

241 S. ANAHEIM BLVD., ANAHEIM, (714) 765-6450; MUZEO.ORG.

READERS' CHOICE *BATTLESHIP IOWA*

BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTION

LIZZIE AT THE CHANCE THEATER

Sexy, profane, raucous and more than a touch disturbing, this punk-rock treatment of the tale of the notorious Lizzie Borden was also a completely unapologetic reminder of how the notion of female self-empowerment may have come a long way, baby, but there is still a long way to go. Directed by Jocelyn Brown and featuring a kick-ass six-member band, four riveting actresses and fluid, sinewy choreography courtesy of Hazel Clarke, *Lizzie* was as much about 2019 as 1890. So straighten up and hide the hatchets, boys!

READERS' CHOICE *PHANTOM OF THE OPERA AT THE SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS*

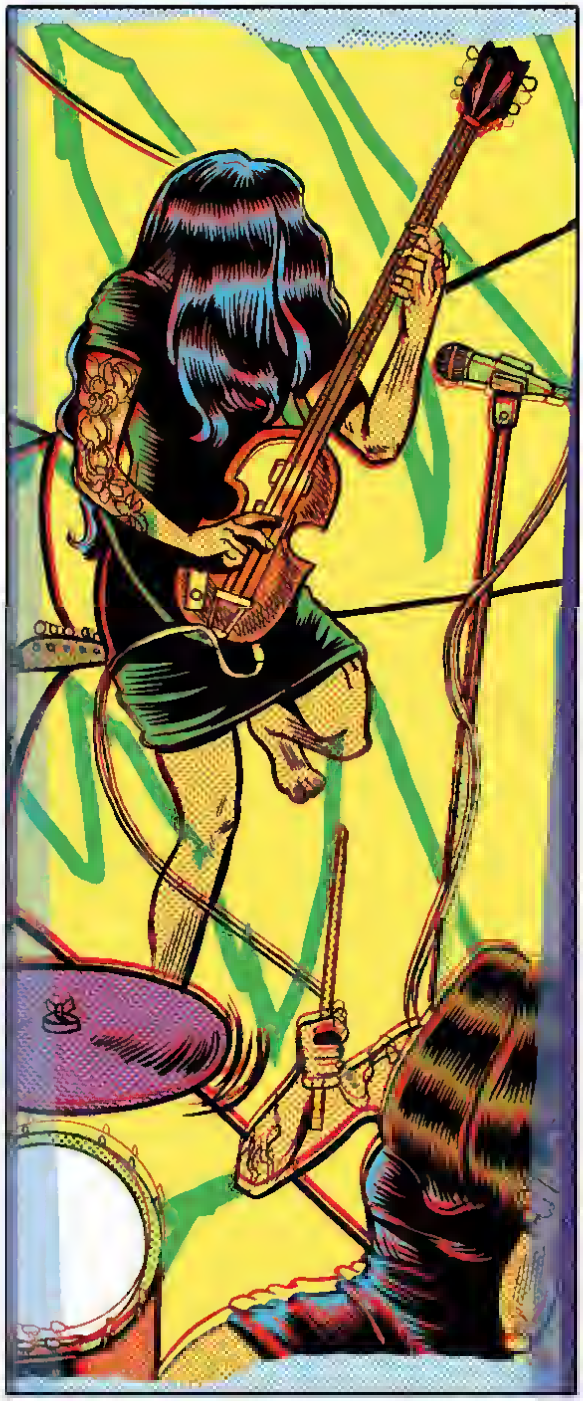
BEST NEW BAND

SHOCK THERAPY

Although they technically released their first full-length album in 2018, this year seems to be the year that Shock Therapy blew up. As evidenced by their second album, June's *Planet Pink*, their synth-driven electropunk sound is as much a throwback to new wave artists such as the B-52's and Devo as it is a breath of fresh air for OC music. Front man Jack Clam's tongue-in-cheek delivery and the band's flamboyant yet ominous stage presence prove that not every punk band has to make serious music for tough guys.

INSTAGRAM @SHOCKTHERAPYOFFICIAL.

READERS' CHOICE *HIRED GUN TRIO*



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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BEST NEW PLAY

CANTO DE ANAHEIM

The past 12 months have been a banner year for new plays in this county, with about 15, most by writers with OC connections, either receiving full productions or staged readings. But only one was written by a local playwright, dealt specifically with local themes and featured a former *OC Weekly* editor as not only a character, but also a collaborator. Sara Guerrero's *Canto de Anaheim*, which was performed at Pearson Park in August and Anaheim High School in October. Award-winning journalist and onetime *Weekly* editor Gustavo Arellano narrated the play, which blended humor, history and pop-culture references with classical compositions by Mexican composers, as performed by the Pacific Symphony. There was an undeniable spirit of pride and civic engagement. It placed a welcome and necessary spotlight on some of the historical and cultural contributions made to Anaheim by people whose names aren't on the buildings or in the standard history books, but who did more to build that city through their lives and their work than anyone.

BEST NIGHTCLUB

QUE SERA

Among Que Sera's numerous club nights, many have become legendary. From the Goth/darkwave DJ night Release the Bats to beats collective GRN+GLD, there's hardly a night of the week when there isn't local talent atop its tiny stage. The nondescript, black-painted exterior holds a quirky dive bar, with a fake fireplace, string lights and a pool table. You'll spend less than the cost of a movie ticket on a night of cool music and arts shenanigans.

1923 E. SEVENTH ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 599-6170; WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEQUESERA

READERS' CHOICE: VELVET LOUNGE

BEST OUTDOOR MUSIC VENUE

GARDEN AMP

The downfall of most outdoor music venues is they lack the intimacy that naturally comes with a small, indoor space. But that's not the case at Garden Amp. The venue was originally designed to host Shakespearean plays, but its tiered seating and overall design have proven to be perfect for concerts. There's not a bad seat in the entire place! Garden Amp has grown substantially in just a few years, selling out shows for everyone from New York hardcore legends Gorilla Biscuits to reggae prodigy Stephen Marley.

12762 MAIN ST., GARDEN GROVE, (949) 415-8544; GARDENAMP.COM

READERS' CHOICE: FIVEPOINT AMPHITHEATRE

BEST PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

MUSCO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Not only does Chapman University's Musco Center for the Arts offer exceptional performances by touring orchestral symphonies and choirs, but it also brings in challenging conceptual productions by global ballet companies, one-person theater shows, concerts and a smattering of unpredictable events. Year-round, there's a delightful mix of contemporary and classical arts programming ready to engage audiences and demonstrate how the performing arts can be an excellent conduit for connecting multiple communities and cultures. Even if you're not into the highbrow stuff, musical concerts and festivals will entertain and delight guests, as will the talks and comedy shows on Musco's calendar.

415 N. GLASSELL ST., ORANGE, (844) 626-8726, MUSCOCENTER.ORG.

READERS' CHOICE: SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS

BEST PLACE FOR COUNTRY MUSIC/LINE DANCING

INCAHOOTS

Most people either strictly hate or love country music—unless you're at InCahoots. Regardless of your musical taste, the vibrant, lively line-dancing venue will have you up and moving, surrounded by like-minded cowpokes.

1401 S. LEMON ST., FULLERTON, (714) 441-1666, WWW.OCINCAHOOTS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: THE RANCH RESTAURANT & SALOON

BEST PLAY

DEAR HARVEY AT CALIFORNIA REPERTORY CO.

First staged in 2008 to remember the 30th anniversary of the assassination of gay-rights (and plenty of other progressive causes) champion Harvey Milk, California Repertory Co.'s staging 10 years later of Long Beach State professor Patricia Loughrey's play *Dear Harvey* was less remembrance than reminder that while Milk may have been pleased by the progress his crusades helped catalyze, much work still needs to be done. Peter Howard's stripped-down production focused less on theatrical exaggeration and iconography than an 11-member ensemble delivering real words by real people about how California's first openly gay elected official touched their lives, vividly showing how the ordinary can become extraordinary if the truth spoken is backed by commitment to action.

READERS' CHOICE: *THE GLASS MENAGERIE* AT MODJESKA PLAYHOUSE

Pastor Joe & Therese Furey

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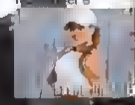
Codependency Group
Freedom from codependency
Child Care Provided (9m-12yrs)
Court Cards Signed

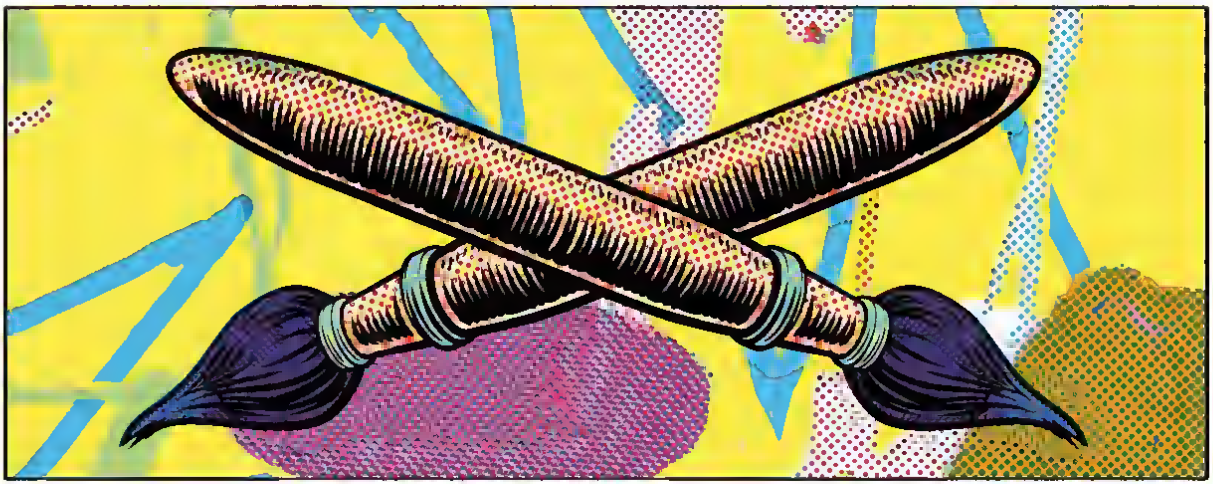
SPEAKER TOPIC
OVERCOMING THE HOPELESSNESS OF ADVERSITY
October 25

SPEAKER TOPIC
LIFE AFTER DEATH
November 1

SPEAKER TOPIC
OVERCOMING THE POWER OF ADDICTION
November 8



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



BEST PUBLIC ART

"BUNNYHENGE"

A simple circle of sturdy cement rabbits delights children, jacks up the IG set and generates enough stoner giggling that you can get a contact high just from the vibe. Inspired by the cottontail bunnies that still inhabit the land, the Newps establishment hated the choice at first. "Why not nautical objects?" or "Waste of money!" they cried. But the installation was less expensive than a play lot, and all ages are free to frolic in this public space. But what must have truly irked the conservative set was the egalitarian placement of these quick-to-breed creatures. They stand equidistant from one another by a tree that casts a circular shadow on the ground that moves throughout the day. And sometimes, these graffiti-repellent white rabbits sport bows.

100 CIVIC CENTER DR., NEWPORT BEACH; WWW.NEWPORTBEACHCA.GOV

BEST PUNK BAND

THE FLYTRAPS

Born in a San Clemente garage, this punk band screamed their way to fame with guttural, visceral music that feels as if you're being hit by a tornado. Power chords screech out of their tracks, with occasional samplings from John Waters movies and hoarse punk horror yells. The Flytraps are aggressive and eccentric, creating whirlwinds of noise and fury.

THEFLYTRAPSBAND.BANDCAMP.COM

READERS' CHOICE: CARSEX

BEST RAPPER

SAGE ONE THE WISE

Wise beyond his years, Sage One entered OC's hip-hop scene as a teenager with plenty of promise. Always energetic, the rapper displayed a deft delivery and a prowess for wordplay. It was only a matter of time before those raw skills met refinement. Last year, the rhymer teamed up with Ariano, an accomplished Juice County veteran, to release the *Sage Project*. Ariano produced the album and lent his smokey vocals to tracks such as "Cigarettes & Regrets," while Sage One showcased his strengthened storytelling on the masterful "The World's Most Dangerous Drug." With a proper set list in tow, the rapper spent the past summer sharing wise words while hitting stages in different states.

INSTAGRAM: @SAGEONETHEWISE.

READERS' CHOICE: NIPSEY HUSSLE

BEST RECORD LABEL

NO TIME RECORDS

Tommy Smith and Fern Aguilar run this independent label out of Fullerton, but their reach is worldwide. When they're not throwing shows around OC, the dedicated No Time Records staff are putting out physical releases for bands from places such as New York, Mexico City and Europe. This summer, the collective celebrated its fifth anniversary with a full weekend of folk punk, hardcore and crack rocksteady bands from both the local scene and beyond. We've no doubt No Time will be a household name within the next five years.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NOTIMERECORDSOC.

BEST ROCK BAND

LOS HURRICANES

Undoubtedly one of the hardest working bands in the county, Los Hurricanes live up to their name. Their retro rock/rhythm-and-blues sound has its obvious influences, but their energetic live shows are unparalleled. From front man Roach Sanchez's powerful bowl to organist Jesus Salas' literal wrestling matches with his instrument, everything about this band is pure rock & roll. Their relentless approach to gigging is certainly paying off, as Los Hurricanes have gained a dedicated following throughout Southern California.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OC-HURRICANES-266877186697915.

READERS' CHOICE: HIRED GUN TRIO

BEST ROCK CLUB

OC TAVERN

South County is home to some of the heaviest bands around, and OC Tavern seems to be the place where they all play. In addition to grimy punk shows somewhat reminiscent of the Cuckoo's Nest and slow-and-trippy psychedelic gigs, you'll find cover bands and local indies such as cosmic metalheads Velvet Merlin, riff-loving punks Pleo Shaman and ska rockers Tunnel Vision.

2369 S. EL CAMINO REAL, SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 542-8877. WWW.OCTAVERN.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: HOUSE OF BLUES AT ANAHEIM GARDENWALK

BEST STRIP JOINT

SPEARMINT RHINO'S CALIFORNIA GIRLS GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

With gorgeous girls, affordable prices and plenty of cheeky surprises, Spearmint Rhino's California Girls Gentlemen's Club is perfect for anyone looking for a clean place to grab a drink and a show. There are daily happy hours and other specials to help you set the tone for the evening. Don't forget to tip the dancers!

815 S. BROOKHURST ST., ANAHEIM, (714) 635-9040; ALSO AT 1109 N. HARBOR BLVD., SANTA ANA, (714) 554-0491; CALIGIRLS714.COM

READERS' CHOICE: THE LIBRARY GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

BEST THEATER/PLAYHOUSE

OC THEATRE GUILD

No, it's not one theater, but rather 11 of them—along with about 30 directors, actors, designers and other assorted theater artists who took a significant step by creating OC Theatre Guild, a network that nurtures and promotes local theater through communication and working together. Steered by a 10-person board that includes reps from the county's most established storefronts (STAGEStheatre, Chance Theater, Maverick Theater) to its newest (the Wayward Artist), the guild has so far focused on cross-promotion and regional auditions. But the most important thing is that at least once a month (when that board meets), those invested the most in the vitality and success of OC

theater are meeting, talking and figuring out ways to DO just that.
WWW.OCTHEATREGUILD.ORG.
READERS' CHOICE: MODJESKA PLAYHOUSE

BEST THEATRICAL ENSEMBLE

FELLOWSHIP: THE MUSICAL! AT THE MAVERICK THEATER

There is so much that could have gone wrong with this decidedly anti-PC spoof of the first book of the trilogy that Peter Jackson did his best to ruin. But thanks to an ensemble who play vamping hypersexed elves, preening death-metal Gondorian kings, sexually confused sidekicks, hapless hobbits, gloriously inept magicians and dwarves being dwarves, it all worked tremendously. The story didn't skid off the tracks nearly as much as forget it was supposed to go anywhere, and whether director Brian Newell actually directed his cast or invited them to a Middle-Earth costume party at his Maverick Theater, told them to show up hammered and neglected to mention there'd be an audience, it didn't matter. *Fellowship The Musical!* was all great fun.

BEST VENUE FOR LIVE COMEDY

THE REC ROOM

At this accurately named comedy club, you can feel the true art and craft that goes into live comedy. As servers bring food and drinks from a rotating menu directly to you, you won't have to worry about missing any killer punch lines. Between acts, you can unwind at the Rec Room's vintage arcade.
7227 EDINGER AVE., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 316-0775; WWW.RECROOMHB.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: IMPROVCITY

BEST VENUE FOR LIVE MUSIC

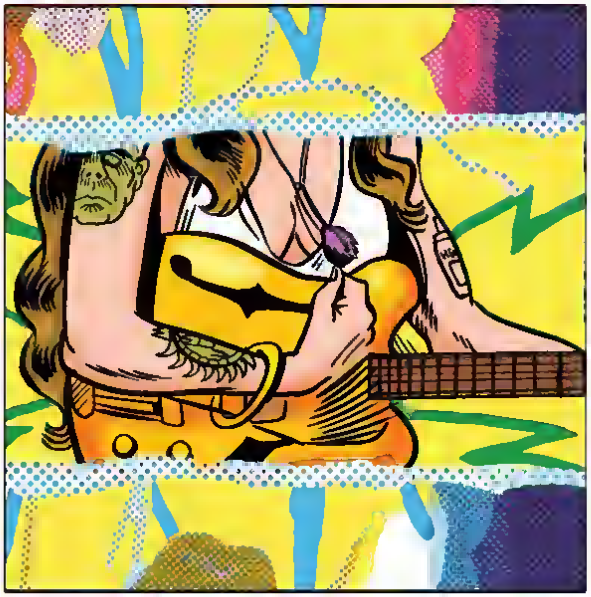
LA SANTA

When you walk down the staircase into the dimly lit basement of La Santa, you're pretty much guaranteed to have a good time. This intimate venue supports local artists, hosts regular (and sometimes free) club nights, and brings in larger touring acts whom fans would otherwise have to schlep all the way to LA to see. The drinks are affordable, too. If you're in the mood for live music but don't know where to look, La Santa is always a good place to start.
220 E. THIRD ST., SANTA ANA, (657) 231-6005; LASANTAOC.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: THE OBSERVATORY

BEST VISUAL ARTIST

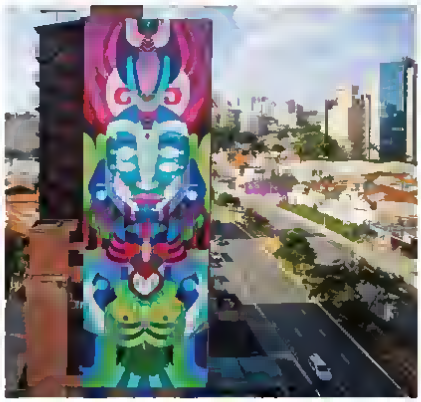
GEORGE KATZENBERGER

Advertising photographer George Katzenberger's commercial website doesn't do justice to his vision. There are only a couple of the many photos he's taken at air shows, black-and-white images shot at angles that anthropomorphize aircraft in ways Stanley Kubrick could only have wished for in *Dr. Strangelove*. Buy him coffee and ask to see more, including his soulful books about his old home, or his infrared portraits of cellphone trees hiding amid the real thing. He's a local talent deserving of a one-man show.
211 E. COLUMBINE AVE., STE. D., SANTA ANA, (714) 545-3055; WWW.KATZENPHOTO.COM.
READERS' CHOICE: AMANDA YAMASHITA



Instruments of Change: An Exploration into Latin American Urban Art

Artist: Fernando Chamaralli



FULLERTON MUSEUM CENTER

OC WEEKLY BEST OF READERS' POLL WINNER 2019

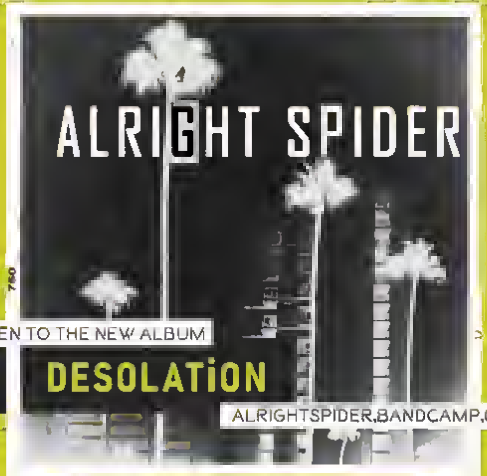
OPENING RECEPTION

Sunday, November 24 6:00pm-9:00pm FREE

Downtown Fullerton Plaza 121 E. Wilshire Ave.

Fullerton Museum Center 301 N. Pomona Ave. Fullerton, CA 92832
714 738 6545 www.cityoffullerton.com/museum

OC WEEKLY BEST OF INDIE ROCK BAND 2019



Find Alright Spider on Facebook for upcoming shows

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BEST ART GALLERY
BREA GALLERY
1 CIVIC CENTER CIRCLE, STE.1, BREA, (714) 990-7730; WWW.BREAGALLERY.COM.

BEST ART MUSEUM
FULLERTON ART MUSEUM
301 N. POMONA AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 738-6545, WWW.CITYOFFULLERTON.COM/GOV/DEPARTMENTS/MUSEUM/

BEST CLUB DJ
HORNY WAVE INSTAGRAM: @HORNYWAVE.

BEST FILM FEST
NEWPORT BEACH FILM FEST
2000 QUAIL ST., NEWPORT BEACH; NEWPORTBEACHFILMFEST.COM.

BEST HIP-HOP ACT
ANDERSON PAAK WWW.ANDERSONPAAK.COM.

BEST INDIE BAND
ALRIGHT SPIDER
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALRIGHTSPIDER.

BEST INDIE FILM THEATER
THE FRIDA CINEMA
305 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 285-9422; THEFRIDACINEMA.ORG.

BEST KARAOKE
THE WAYFARER
843 W. 19TH ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 764-0039; WAYFARERCM.COM.

BEST LIVE COVER BAND
YACHTY BY NATURE
YACHTYBYNATURE.COM.

BEST LOCAL CELEBRITY
VINCE FERRAGAMO WWW.VFFOUNDATION.ORG.

BEST LOCAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
OC PARKS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
WWW.OCPARKS.COM/EVENTS.

BEST LOCAL PODCAST
I DOUBT IT WITH DOLLEMORE
DOLLEMORE.COM.

BEST LOCAL RADIO PERSONALITY
EMO ON KOCI-FM
WWW.KOCIRADIO.COM/EMO-S-ROCK-AND-ROLL-MAGIC-SHOW.

BEST LOCAL RADIO STATION
KOCI-FM 101.5
485 E. 17TH ST., STE. ST0, COSTA MESA, (949) 650-1015; WWW.KOCIRADIO.COM.

BEST MOVIE THEATER
THE FRIDA CINEMA
305 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 285-9422; THEFRIDACINEMA.ORG.

BEST MUSEUM
BATTLESHIP IOWA
250 S. HARBOR BLVD., SAN PEDRO, (877) 446-9261; WWW.PACIFICBATTLESHIP.COM.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2019 BEST OF READERS' POLL

BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTION
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA AT THE SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS

BEST NEW BAND
HIRED GUN TRIO
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HIREDGUNTRIO

BEST NIGHTCLUB
VELVET LOUNGE
416 W. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 664-0663, VELVETOC.COM

BEST OUTDOOR MUSIC VENUE
FIVEPOINT AMPHITHEATRE
14800 CHINON AVE., IRVINE, (949) 988-6800; AMPHITHEATERIRVINE.COM.

BEST PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS
600 TOWN CENTER DR., COSTA MESA, (714) 556-2787, SCFTA.ORG.

BEST PLACE FOR COUNTRY MUSIC/LINE DANCING
THE RANCH RESTAURANT & SALOON
1025 E. BALL RD., ANAHEIM, (714) 817-4200; THERANCH.COM.

BEST PLAY
THE GLASS MENAGERIE AT MODJESKA PLAYHOUSE

BEST PUNK BAND
CARSEX
CARSEXLBC.BANDCAMP.COM.

BEST RAPPER
NIPSEY HUSSLE IHUSSLE.COM.

BEST ROCK BAND
HIRED GUN TRIO
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HIREDGUNTRIO

BEST STRIP JOINT
THE LIBRARY GENTLEMEN'S CLUB
1421 N. STATE COLLEGE BLVD., ANAHEIM, (714) 808-8500; ALSO AT 7000 GARDEN GROVE BLVD., WESTMINSTER, (714) 891-1430; THELIBRARYGC.COM.

BEST THEATER/PLAYHOUSE
MODJESKA PLAYHOUSE
21084 BAKE PKWY., STE. 104, LAKE FOREST, (949) 445-3674, WWW.MPHSTAGE.ORG.

BEST VENUE FOR LIVE COMEDY
IMPROVCITY
3415 MICHELSON DR., IRVINE, (855) 624-6776, WWW.IMPROVCITYONLINE.COM.

BEST VENUE FOR LIVE MUSIC
THE OBSERVATORY
3503 S. HARBOR BLVD., SANTA ANA, (714) 957-0600; WWW.OBSERVATORYOC.COM.

BEST VISUAL ARTIST
AMANDA YAMASHITA
WWW.AMANDAYAMASHITAART.COM.

SHOPPING
and
Services
OC
WEEKLY
VOL 25
2019
LONDON CALLING
OH YOU KNOW.
IT'S OKAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES & SUPPORT!

OCWEEKLY BEST OF READERS' POLL WINNER 2019

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Across from the Huntington Beach Pier

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www.jackssurfboards.com

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PAWS CHATEAU
A Luxury Resort for Your Pet

OCWEEKLY BEST OF READERS' POLL WINNER 2019

Thank You for Voting Us Best Doggy Daycare!

- Luxury doggy hotel and day camp
- 24-hour on-site care, open 7 days a week
- Separate small dog & big dog facilities
- Live webcams

- Overnight Stay Luxury Suites
  - *Cage-free
  - *Private hotel suites
  - *Standard & Family Suites
  - *Penthouse & Deluxe suites with 39" TVs, webcams and more

THE ULTIMATE DOG BOARDING EXPERIENCE

We are passionate pet professionals, dedicated to providing your best friend with a safe, comfortable, clean and fun experience. You'll have peace of mind knowing your dog is at their home away from home

7680 Talbert Ave., Ste. I & H, Huntington Beach | 714-421-4471 | info@pawschateau.com | pawschateau.com | IG&FB: @pawschateau

Shopping and Services

BEST ADULT STORE

SPANKYS ADULT EMPORIUM

Spankys' ribald humor and cheeky goodness greets you the moment you pull into the driveway, along which paintings of euphemisms for masturbation line the wall—spanking the monkey, pounding the meat, stroking the kitty, etc. The store itself is crammed with a what's-what of toys and accessories for any and every type of interest, from Kegel balls to sex swings. A wide selection of DVDs and videos provides options for spank-bank entertainment, while non-sex items are available, too, including glass pipes, CBD products, and Suavecito hair pomade for him and her. Seasoned users of dildos and cock rings stop here, but if you're too shy to ask the front desk any questions, free, helpful brochures on topics such as getting into anal play, strap-ons and vibrators are available throughout the shop. Did we mention this place is open 24/7?

213 N. HARBOR BLVD., SANTA ANA, (714) 554-4495, WWW.SPANKYSONLINE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SPANKYS ADULT EMPORIUM

BEST ANIMAL RESCUE

PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

Go immediately to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center website to see current patients getting nursed back to health for their eventual release back into the sea, including, as of press time, Meatball, Agent 99, Patron and more. There's even a webcam so you can observe the California sea lions, northern elephant and fur seals, and Pacific Harbor seals that have been saved from porches in San Clemente, buoys in Newport Harbor and under the Bolsa Chica/Huntington Beach bridge. The release videos bring utter joy to even the crankiest humans. Last year, 133 mammals were rescued and rehabilitated; as of press time, 172 have already been saved. That's a lot of fish to conjure up for the rescuees, sometimes up to 1,000 pounds per day. In addition to saving lives, the center shares its work with school kids and Girl Scouts. And because these sentinel creatures live in both terrestrial and marine environments, its research collaborations with Tufts and UC Davis are vital. It's as free as a digital look-see, but feel free to visit in person. And consider donating: $1 buys 1 pound of fish, while $6 feeds one harbor seal for a day.

20612 LAGUNA CANYON RD., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-3050; WWW.PACIFICMMC.ORG

READERS' CHOICE: LOVEBUGS RESCUE

BEST AUTO BODY SHOP

BROOKS ORANGE BODY & PAINT

If you're in need of a body shop, chances are you are having a bad day. Mark Brooks and his staff understand this and will do what they can to turn that around. From the couch in Brooks Orange Body & Paint's cozy waiting room, you'll learn what can be done to get your vehicle looking brand-new with a refreshing honesty and directness. And when you return for your baby in exactly the amount of time you were told it would take, she'll be in pristine form.

735 W. COLLINS AVE., ORANGE, (714) 289-0777; WWW.BROOKSAUTOCOLLISION.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: FOUNTAIN VALLEY BODY WORKS

BEST BARBERSHOP

A-UNIQUE BARBERSHOP

When Anaheim's A-Unique Barbershop marked its 20th anniversary last year, it did so in a larger location, one that's just up the street from the old spot. The long-standing black-owned barbershop is still the place to get a perfect taper, fade or specialty cut—the crew has even added a professional braider to the bunch! Owner Pierre Dotson and fellow barbers keep the vibe casual and conversational while making sure customers look their best. And proving itself to be a pillar in the community, the barbershop held "Back to School" drives this summer to gather supplies for youngsters in need. After marking a milestone, A-Unique is new and improved. And that's just how folks will feel when getting up from the barber's chair!

2532 W. LINCOLN AVE., ANAHEIM (714) 484-9043, INSTAGRAM: @AUNIQUEBARBERSHOP.

READERS' CHOICE: AMERICAN BARBER SHOP

BEST BIKE SHOP

ORANGE CYCLE

Since 1969, the family-owned Orange Cycle has offered a selection of bikes and parts in a range of prices to ensure you get the best ride possible. Plus, you can get everything from your beach cruiser to your BMX bike serviced and repaired here. The well-versed staff will make sure you're back on two wheels in no time!

210 S. GLASSELL ST., ORANGE, (714) 532-6838; WWW.ORANGECYCLE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SURF CITY BEACH CRUISERS

BEST BOOKSTORE

LAGUNA BEACH BOOKS

With dusty paperbacks and hardcovers so new they still smell like glue, Laguna Beach Books is a must-stop-shop for literature-lovers. The store regularly hosts author appearances and a book club. Best of all, smaller, indie titles aren't shoved into forgotten corners to gather dust; rather, they're given shoutouts on the website.

1200 S. COAST HWY., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-4779, WWW.LAGUNABEACHBOOKS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: BARNES & NOBLE

BEST CAR WASH

UNIQUE CAR WASH & AUTO DETAILING

There's a reason why Vic Melikyan's Unique Car Wash & Auto Detailing has 1,173 five-star Yelp reviews. He and his crew treat every car that comes through as if it were their own. They take their time hand washing and detailing the dirt and grime (or, say, an entire container of liquid laundry detergent that spilled in the back seat) out of every crevice until the whole vehicle shines like new.

959 SOUTH COAST DR., COSTA MESA, (714) 580-7146

READERS' CHOICE: RUSSELL FISCHER CAR CARE CENTERS

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Best Tattoo Shop
THANK YOU FOR VOTING FOR US!
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714-213-9873 • ILLUSIONSINKHOUSE@GMAIL.COM

SHOPPING and Services

BEST CLOTHING BOUTIQUE

GUNTHERS SUPPLY CO.

Visitors from all over Southern California make the drive to this tiny storefront because there's almost no other place that provides the same selection of streetwear and workwear brands for the same prices. Gunthers Supply Co. recently opened a second location on Main Street, so an even wider selection will be in stock. From classics such as Dickies, Dr. Martens, Pendleton and Ben Davis to local favorites Loser Machine and Suavecito, Gunthers isn't your dad's store for blue-collar threads, but we guarantee he'll find something here, too.

324 W. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 702-5002, ALSO AT 2030 S. MAIN ST., SANTA ANA, GUNTHERS.CO

READERS' CHOICE: STITCH AND FEATHER

BEST COMIC-BOOK STORE

COMIC BOOK HIDEOUT

A far cry from the occasional snobbery many comic stores exude, Comic Book Hideout is a small store with a lot of heart. Anyone from a newbie to a veteran can come expect good recommendations from the helpful staff. The store also hosts art shows as well as painting and music classes, plus owner Glynnes shares her picks from the inventory on the web-video series "Weekly What's Up."

215 W. COMMONWEALTH AVE., FULLERTON, (657) 217-0624, WWW.COMICBOOKHIDEOUT.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: POP COMICS

BEST COSMETIC SURGEON

DR. TERRY DUBROW

He's arguably the most famous cosmetic surgeon in Orange County, thanks to E! shows *Botched* and *Botched By Nature*, as well as appearances alongside wife Heather on *The Real Housewives of Orange County*. But Dr. Terry Dubrow also has a reputation for being down-to-earth, which seems uncommon in the world of surgery. And this approachable nature of his may be why he's the most famous cosmetic surgeon in Orange County.

1617 WESTCLIFF DR., STE. 207, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 515-4111, WWW.DRDUBROW.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: DR. KEVIN SADATI

BEST DENTIST

DR. ERIC VANEK, DDS

With a background in oceanography and geology, Dr. Eric Vanek seems ready to surf at a moment's notice. This attitude may be why there is seemingly no stress allowed in his full-service dental office. It's a feeling that envelops even the most anxious patient. Everyone from the support staff to the dental hygienist and assistants is friendly and amazing, taking care of even the smallest details in an effort to provide you with the very best experience. So sit back, relax and enjoy the least painless teeth cleaning of your life.

1503 SOUTH COAST DR., STE. 201, COSTA MESA, (714) 545-7157, WWW.VANEKDENTISTRY.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: DR. JEREMY JORGENSON ADVANCED DENTAL CARE

BEST DOGGIE DAYCARE

CAMP BOW WOW

Doggie-daycare services can be overpriced and sketchy, but if you bring your dog to Camp Bow Wow in Anaheim, you won't worry about your pup's separation anxiety, getting regular exercise, or socializing with dogs and people. And you can view your pooch via live webcams at any time. With the full attention and care from the staff, you can rest easy knowing your furry friend is having a blast all day.

1431 N. DALY ST., ANAHEIM, (714) 533-2267; WWW.CAMPBOWWOW.COM/ANAHEIM

READERS' CHOICE: PAWS CHATEAU

BEST DOWNTOWN

HUNTINGTON BEACH

With excellent food and shopping options, plus its proximity to the beach, downtown Huntington Beach is the clear winner here. It's also home to several street fairs, farmers' markets, and annual parties such as the Vans U.S. Open and the Back to the Beach Festival. Let loose with your friends where it's summertime all the time.

WWW.HBDOWNTOWN.COM

READERS' CHOICE: HUNTINGTON BEACH

BEST FACIAL

BODYCENTRE DAY SPA

A seven-in-one, the BodyCentre Day Spa's Red Carpet Facelift includes a variety of serums and luxury treatments, including both an ultrasound treatment and microelectric therapy to help improve microcirculation and cell absorption. Made to minimize those pesky pores, this ultimate facial will leave your skin glowing!

801 BAKER ST., STE. E, COSTA MESA, (714) 668-9925, WWW.BODYCENTREDAYSPA.COM.

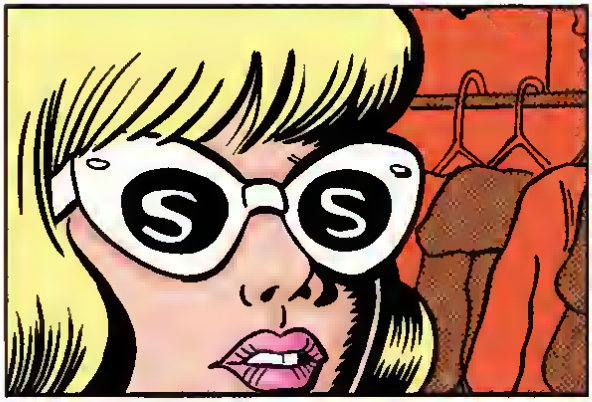
READERS' CHOICE: AESTHETIC LOUNGE

BEST HAIR REMOVAL

FATHER TIME

Every tick and tock of his clock brings more despair and less hair to the half-domes that are men's heads!

READERS' CHOICE: DOWNTOWN SUGAR



BEST HAIR SALON

TEASE SALON

Whether you're looking for a balayage treatment or just a trim, Tease Salon has a crew of talented stylists and colorists who can help. We recommend color and extension specialist Ashley Goetz—but whoever you decide to go with, once you've found *your* hairdresser, you know there is no turning back until they decide to retire their shears.

151 KALMUS DR., STE M-1, COSTA MESA, (949) 548-3273; WWW.TEASESALONOC.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SALON MIDORI

BEST HOTEL

LIDO HOUSE

Sitting on the site of the old Newport Beach City Hall is the Lido House, part of the Marriott's Autograph Collection series of boutique hotels. And what a hotel: four stories of rooms, five cottages, and a stylish rooftop bar with New England-style architecture and a view many have killed for. The whole place positively reeks of class, which is good because the old City Hall reeked of feckless cronyism. It's pricey, though, with room rates in excess of $400 per night, but the words *Newport Beach* probably already tipped you off to that. In any case, you can save a ton of money by skipping the on-site restaurant, Mayor's Table, and instead walking a couple of blocks to Cassidy's for one of the county's best burgers.

3300 NEWPORT BLVD., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 524-8500; AUTOGRAPH-HOTELS.MARRIOTT.COM/HOTEL/LIDO-HOUSE

READERS' CHOICE: PASEA HOTEL & SPA

BEST LAWYER

CORREEN FERRENTINO

The majority of those considered the elite of Orange County criminal-defense lawyers are men whose greatest skill isn't legal prowess. Frankly, it's connections. They maintain close friendships with high-ranking prosecutors who dole out courthouse favors behind the scenes. Though she doesn't get the media attention she deserves, former public defender Correen Ferrentino is among the most competent private attorneys in the area. Ferrentino excels at plotting wise trial strategies, writing groundbreaking motions and swaying juries. Few, if any of her colleagues, have accomplished more this year alone. In *People v. James Toledano*, Ferrentino convinced the California Court of Appeal to abandon its prior support of an extortion conviction and call for a new trial, a feat rarely seen in the state. She used evidence of a long-hidden police sham that won a conviction in *People v. Henry Cabrera* to drastically reduce a life sentence with the dismissal of bogus charges. In *People v. Josh Waring*, Ferrentino successfully argued that appellate justices should review a Superior Court judge's refusal to dismiss the case after sheriff's deputies and police illegally monitored the pretrial defendant's jailhouse calls pertaining to defense-trial strategies, in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

FERRENTINO & ASSOCIATES, 949 SOUTH COAST DR., STE. 250, COSTA MESA, (714) 973-2024, FERRENTINOLAW.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: JONATHAN Y. SHIN

BEST LIBRARY

SANTA ANA

In a time when stupidity seems to be society's primary driving force, all libraries are exceptional places. Their stacks of books and periodicals are obviously a requirement for any civilization that wishes to fend off extinction, but libraries also house librarians—wonderful people dedicated to reading, learning and thinking. If we get out of this mess known as the 21st century, it will be thanks in no small part to the work of librarians. Here in Orange County, all the libraries are wonderful places, but the Santa Ana Public Library is a little bit more wonderful. In 2016, it won a National Medal for Museum and Library Service, and in 2018, senior librarian David Lopez was listed as one of *Library Journal*'s "Movers and Shakers."

26 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, SANTA ANA, (714) 647-5250; CI.SANTA-ANA.CA.US/LIBRARY

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San Clemente Car Wash 1731 El Camino Real San Clemente, Ca 92672	

RussellFischer.com

@RussellFischerCarCare

BEST LIQUOR STORE

HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

Yes, yes, the word *wine* is right there in the name, and there *is* a full-on wine cellar here, with varieties from just about every corner of the planet. But Hi-Time Wine Cellars is a complete liquor store—by which we mean if you're looking for a specific tequila that you had once while on a road trip through the Southwest, even if you can't fully recall its name, you're likely to find it here. And if you don't, a staff member will offer to track it down for you. But you'll probably find it, and then someone will suggest something else, and then you'll take note of the seriously fun time wine-tasters are having in the bar area and the board listing upcoming events, and you will start planning your next visit to coincide with one of those events, and did you really just spend an hour here?

250 OGLE ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 650-8463, WWW.HITIMEWINE.NET.

READERS' CHOICE: HI-TIME WINE CELLARS

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN/ PUBLIC SERVANT

KATIE PORTER

Youngsters may not recall, but Orange County's congressional representatives historically have been a collection of loud right-wing kooks, racists and homophobes who hid behind flag waving, dubious pronouncements of faith and mind-numbingly incoherent public ramblings. That all changed when, for the first time in modern county history, reasonable people, all Democrats, took control of our local seats in Congress. OC now enjoys calm representation, and the most impressive of the new crew is Katie Porter. The single working mother who ousted pro-Donald Trump incumbent Republican Mimi Walters in the 45th congressional district, which includes Irvine, has regularly appeared as a genuine rising star in committee meetings and on national television. In late July, CNN produced a well-deserved profile that reports Porter is "stirring up trouble for Trump." That's music to our ears. Having served less than a year in office, she also stood up for average working Americans while helping to expose the incompetence of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson and the deceitfulness of Wells Fargo head honcho Tim Sloan, who resigned two weeks after she confronted him about bank corruption.

2151 MICHELSON DR., STE. 195, IRVINE, (949) 668-6600; PORTER.HOUSE.GOV

READERS' CHOICE: KATIE PORTER

BEST MASSAGE

PACIFIC WATERS SPA

The CBD massage at Pacific Waters Spa allows you to enjoy all of the healing benefits of CBD—including anti-inflammatory and pain relieving agents to treat achy muscles—while relaxing oceanside.

AT THE HYATT REGENCY HUNTINGTON BEACH, 21500 PACIFIC COAST HWY., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 845 4772; WWW.HYATT.COM/EN-US/SPAS/PACIFIC-WATERS-SPA/HOME.

READERS' CHOICE: SALON MIDORI

BEST MECHANIC

MOUNTAIN VIEW TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

Mountain View has something like 30 locations throughout Southern California (two of which are in OC), but it's the Huntington Beach garage that we know the best. Recently, a friend's car battery died on his lunch break. While waiting for a tow, our friend realized he was just a few blocks from Mountain View. Once there, the mechanics informed our friend that his particular battery was (1) not in stock and (2) more expensive than most car batteries (damn you, Jeep!). But rather than shrug their shoulders and tell him to suck it up, since he clearly wasn't in a position to take his business elsewhere, they started calling other suppliers until they found a battery that (1) fit his stupid American-made car and (2) wasn't outlandishly expensive. An hour later, he was back on the road. And that is service.

19131 BROOKHURST ST., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (877) 872-0126. ALSO AT 135 S. PROSPECT AVE., TUSTIN. (877) 872-0144, MOUNTAINVIEWTIRE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: LINT AUTOMOTIVE

BEST NAIL SALON

FOREVER NAILS & SPA

At Forever Nails & Spa, you can get anything from one-of-a-kind designs to a simple gel manicure, and you'll know you'll leave with your nails on fleek. Choose from a multitude of premium lacquers, sink into one of the oversized, lush leather chairs, and treat yo'self.

1514 BAKER ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 825-0789

READERS' CHOICE: APHRODITE NAILS

BEST NEW APP

LAGUNA BEACH PARKING APP

Not only does this sweet app let you know where available spots are located in real time, but it also allows you to pay for parking. It'll even send notices to warn you when your time is almost up, with the option to add more minutes. Enter your destination, and the snappy algorithm will tell you the closest lot with an available spot and how far you'll walk or when the next free trolley will arrive for boarding. If meta PSAs are your thing, check out the video promoting the app on its website; actress Lauren Conrad driving around town in circles is late for the shoot because—you guessed it!—she can't find a place to park. As with telephone booths, parking meters will soon become extinct or used to disguise time machines, after they've all been converted to take your credit card/steal your identity.

APP.LAGUNABEACHPARKING.NET

BEST OCCULT STORE

THE DRAGON AND THE ROSE

Need the right protective crystals to get through Mercury being in retrograde without it making life a living hell? Maybe an array of oils to meet all your witchy needs? Or is a book of shadows what's required? Whatever the calling, the Dragon and the Rose is just the right metaphysical store. More than just a one-stop witch shop, the small, 10-year-old business is the big heart of Orange County's pagan community, thanks to store manager Addie Velasquez and owner Karen Estremo, who opened the place in remembrance of her Wiccan daughter, Arielle Rose, who died in a car accident. The shop also hosts Wiccan rituals just outside its doors, marking Sabbats from Mabon to Beltane. As above, so below.

2424 N. GRAND AVE., STE. K, SANTA ANA, (714) 569-0100; THEDRAGONANDTHEROSE.COM.

BEST OPTOMETRIST

DR. JEFFREY H. BROWN, OD

When your optometrist is so good you refer everyone you know and everyone you work with to his office, well, that's how you know they're the best. Dr. Jeff Brown is patient with his patients and always up-to-date on advancements and news that affect your peepers. And his staff will not only help you find the perfect specs from their carefully curated selection, but they'll also make sure you don't put yourself into bankruptcy while doing so.

875 BAKER ST., STE. E-16, COSTA MESA, (714) 707-6712; WWW.DR.JEFFREYBROWNOD.COM.

BEST PET-SUPPLY STORE

PET SUPPLY ORANGE COUNTY

No matter the animal you are shopping for, Pet Supply Orange County has what you need. The staff are super-knowledgeable about all animal-related questions, and some stores host adoption events on weekends. Each of its six OC locations offers a huge selection of supplies and goodies, including the largest selection of dog toys and clothing we've ever seen, as well as pet-related products for their proud owners such as bracelets, keychains and animal figurines.

VARIOUS LOCATIONS; WWW.PETSUPPLYOC.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: ANAHEIM FEED AND PET SUPPLY

BEST PLACE FOR SHOPPING

FASHION ISLAND

What's the best thing about Fashion Island? It's either the location, the restaurants, the fitness classes, the movie theater, or that it has pretty much every store you could need. Or maybe it's all of those things. You even have the option of having a personal shopper do all the grunt work for you. And if you stop by this outdoor mall during Christmas or Easter, you may run into Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny.

401 NEWPORT CENTER DR., NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 721-2000; WWW.SHOPFASHIONISLAND.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SOUTH COAST PLAZA

BEST PLACE TO GET PIERCED

ENGINEERINK TATTOO & BODY PIERCING

Getting any sort of body modification is a painful enough, but going under the needle at EngineerInk in Fullerton makes the entire experience a breeze. The folks at this fine establishment know how to make customers feel at home the moment they walk in the door, guiding them through every procedure, including helping you pick out jewelry and determining proper piercing placement. Don't expect piercing guns like what you'd find at Claire's, each piercer is fully licensed and uses a traditional long needle for optimal sterilization. The best part of going here? It won't cost you an arm and (tattooed) leg, so you can shop for your piercings on a budget.

2443 E. ORANGETHORPE AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 738-0666, ENGINEERINK.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: CM HURT

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BEST REAL-ESTATE AGENT

JULIO ARANA

With rents and home prices as high as they've ever been, buying a home in Orange County can feel impossible, especially for first-timers. It takes an experienced professional who listens to your concerns and knows the market to guide you through the process. Whether you're looking to take advantage of the low rates, buy an investment property or sell your home, Julio Arana provides hands-on, individualized advice for each of his clients that is unparalleled.

WWW.ZILLOW.COM/PROFILE/JULIOARANA.

READERS' CHOICE: ROBERT CASAS

BEST RECORD STORE

PORT OF SOUND RECORDS

We see why they call this shop a port, as its selection reflects the container volume at the Port of Long Beach. There are records everywhere and of all kinds, from hip-hop to jazz to metal to funk to soul, by artists who are independent, signed, or completely underground. It's easy to spend a whole day browsing and listening to all the artists you love at Port of Sound Records. There are just as many CDs here as there are vinyl records, for which you could also pick up a nice turntable to play them if you've only just begun to capture the essence of music as it was about three decades ago. And this shop has everything you need to maintain and clean your music collection to ensure optimal quality.

1500 ADAMS AVE., STE. 104-B, COSTA MESA, (714) 444-2337; PORTOFSOUNDRECORDS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: DR. FREECLOUD'S LAST RECORD STORE STANDING

BEST SHOE STORE

SAM'S SHOES AND REPAIR

Founder Sam Tibers was playing trumpet in local bands when he opened his shoe shop in 1953. And he was still blowing his horn during Richard Nixon's Western White House era when he shod the president's family. Today, the store on Del Mar is still going strong with quality shoes and repairs, plus the know-how of its longtime staff. The great thing is, the footwear is priced pretty much the same as at online retailers, but you get to try them on first and walk around the store. Actual people help you find the right fit, and they'll suggest an alternative style if they think it'll suit you better. Follow the shop's Facebook for trunk-show sales throughout the year, and and don't miss next July's 67th-annual blowout. There's parking and an entrance out back, which makes it easy to take in shoes for repairs or retreads or to shop such brands as Teva, Born, Ecco, Earth, Arcopedico and Converse.

135 AVENIDA DEL MAR AVE., SAN CLEMENTE, (949) 492-3495, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/CATEGORY/FOOTWEAR-STORE/SAMS-SHOES-REPAIR-STORE-144382347256213/

READERS' CHOICE: VANS

BEST SKATE SHOP

ATTIC SKATE SHOP

If you skate in Orange County, chances are you're already familiar with Attic Skate Shop in Costa Mesa. It's not a large shop, and it's certainly not a chain, but for the past two decades, it has quietly built up a reputation as a great place to get decks, wheels, shirts and whatever else you need to skate. About 20 years ago, Brett Hamilton, who is himself a skater, opened the shop, which has a great selection (the wall of decks is something to behold), staff with tremendous knowledge, whether helping a beginner or an experienced pro; and real credibility. Skateboarding is a ton of fun, but you have to know what you're doing to get the most out of it (as well as not get badly injured). And the people at Attic know what they're doing.

2588 NEWPORT BLVD., COSTA MESA, (949) 645-3457, A-T-T-I-C.SHOPLIGHTSPEED.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: VANS

BEST SURF SHOP

HARBOUR SURFBOARDS

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Harbour Surfboards, founded in 1959 by Rich Harbour. His first board, made at the age of 16, may have been a disaster, but since then, he and his shop have built 32,000 outstanding ones. The shop location then (at 329 Main Street in Seal Beach) is the same today, making it the nation's oldest surfboard-shaping spot. The walls are covered with photos and clippings dating back to a time when Gerry Lopez (a fan of Harbour boards) was very young. "Even though [the shop is] up to date, it's still kind of in a time warp," shaper Tim Stamps told *Surfer* magazine in May. "Boards are shaped there, they've always been shaped there. ... It's kind of—I hate to say real—but it's like the real deal of surfboards and time gone by: what it is, what it was, what the industry used to be."

329 MAIN ST., SEAL BEACH, (562) 430-5614, HARBOURSURFBOARDS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: JACK'S SURF SHOP

BEST TANNING SALON

ROCKSTAR TAN

If you're looking for that "I just got back from a weeklong vacation on a tropical island" glow, Rockstar Tan is the place for you. There are three locations conveniently spread across Orange County, all offering an unlimited tanning pass for only $18.99 per month. For more casual tanners, there are promotions for each day of the week, including Monday Madness, which gets you 50 percent off upgrades, and Sunless Sunday's $15 spray tan.

1870 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, (949) 574-0505; ALSO AT 4957 KATELLA AVE., LOS ALAMITOS, (714) 226-0505, AND 27911 LA PAZ RD., LAGUNA NIGUEL, (949) 831-0505, WWW.ROCKSTARTAN.COM

READERS' CHOICE: TROPIC TAN

BEST TATTOO PARLOR

BLACK PALM TATTOO

With amazingly skilled, highly regarded artists offering a variety of styles and color options, Black Palm Tattoo has something for everyone. In addition to owner Aaron Cox, you'll find inkslingers Joey Cox, Jordan Yescas, Elexa Sanchez, Paul Alvarado and Tim Sauter. Whether it's your first or your sixth tattoo, you can count on a damn-good-looking work of art made with long-lasting ink that won't necessarily break the bank.

1038 N. TUSTIN ST., ORANGE, (714) 602-9887; FACEBOOK.COM/BLACKPALMTATTOO INSTAGRAM: @BLACKPALMTATTOO

READERS' CHOICE: ILLUSIONS INK

BEST TOURIST ATTRACTION

PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS

What can best be described by experiencing it first-hand, this summertime performance brings new meaning to "the magic of lighting." Utilizing an entire amphitheater to showcase the beauty of art coming to life, this beach city knows how to draw crowds. Although it's quite the chore to navigate as a local during Pageant season, it is truly worth experiencing at least once in your lifetime—especially for the awe-inspiring finale.

650 LAGUNA CANYON RD., LAGUNA BEACH, (949) 494-1145; WWW.FOAPOM.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: DISNEYLAND

BEST TREND

"BUILD-YOUR-OWN" RESTAURANTS

On almost every street corner in America, you can find a Subway, a Chipotle or a build-your-own pizza joint. However, this trend continues expanding in creative ways in Orange County, with a wide variety of cultural restaurants joining in, from customized pitas to poke bowls with endless toppings.

READERS' CHOICE: WEED

BEST USED BOOKSTORE

CAMELOT BOOKS

Thanks to its more than 100 categories of books and tens of thousands of paperbacks, Camelot Books managed to stand tall against the online-retail onslaught in an almost Arthurian fashion, selling used tomes to reading enthusiasts, penny-pinchers and curiosity-seekers. Long live Camelot!

18120 BROOKHURST ST., STE. 28, FOUNTAIN VALLEY. WWW.CAMELOT-BOOKS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: THE BOOKMAN

BEST USED-CLOTHING STORE

2ND STREET COSTA MESA

Offering good vibes, plus neo-thrifting and consignment options, 2nd Street Costa Mesa carries the hottest luxury and streetwear brands, including Bape, Supreme and Gucci.

2957 BRISTOL ST., STE. D101, COSTA MESA, (949) 274-8585, 2NDSTREETUSA.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: SAVERS

BEAT VAPE SHOP

FLAWLESS VAPE SHOP

With a super-experienced staff and hundreds of flavors available, Flawless Vape Shop is ready to help you spice up your smoking experience. In addition to starter kits, the shop offers its own brand of vapes and eliquids in a variety of colors and finishes. Make an educated decision and get the right product every time.

5589 E. SANTA ANA CANYON RD., ANAHEIM, (714) 998-8298; WWW.FLAWLESSVAPESHOP.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP

BEST VETERINARY PRACTICE

PAWS 'N' CLAWS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

If you dread taking your pets to the vet, Paws 'n' Claws will calm your fears. In addition to exams for the common to the most exotic of pets, this practice provides grooming, surgery and a pharmacy. And from the seamless scheduling system to regular calls from the friendly staff, your experience will be comfortable for both you and your beloved pets.

19762 YORBA LINDA BLVD., STE. D, YORBA LINDA, (714) 693-3801; PAWSNCLAWS.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: GREEK AND ASSOCIATES VETERINARY HOSPITAL

BEST VINTAGE STORE

BUFFALO EXCHANGE

The staff here is picky. Though this consignment shop is part of a national franchise, each location has its own style, and that's obvious from the different vibes at the Buffalo Exchange's Orange County shops. What's the same is that each one sells high-quality vintage garments at affordable prices, and if you have something to sell, once it's approved by the staff, you can collect money or store credit to buy more clothes, shoes and accessories.

AT THE LAB, 2930 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (714) 825-0619; ALSO AT 215 N. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 870-6855; WWW.BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: I LOOK VINTAGE

www.robertcasas.com

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Email: rabert_casas@me.cam

Shopping and Services

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SPANKYS ADULT EMPORIUM
213 N. HARBOR BLVD., SANTA ANA, (714) 554-4495; WWW.SPANKYSONLINE.COM.

BEST ANIMAL RESCUE
LOVEBUGS RESCUE
WWW.LOVEBUGSRESCUE.ORG.

BEST AUTO BODY SHOP
FOUNTAIN VALLEY BODY WORKS
17481 NEWHOPE ST., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, (714) 751-8812; ALSO AT 18125 EUCLID ST., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, (714) 540-2111; WWW.FVBODYWORKS.COM.

BEST BARBERSHOP
AMERICAN BARBER SHOP
320 E. FOURTH ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 550-7430; WWW.AMERICANBARBERSHOP.COM.

BEST BIKE SHOP
SURF CITY BEACH CRUISERS
19171 MAGNOLIA ST., STE. 17, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 321-4408; SURFCITYBEACHCRUISERS.COM.

BEST BOOKSTORE
BARNES & NOBLE
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.BARNESANDNOBLE.COM.

BEST CAR WASH
RUSSELL FISCHER CAR CARE CENTERS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.RUSSELLFISCHERCARWASH.COM.

BEST CLOTHING BOUTIQUE
STITCH AND FEATHER
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.STITCHANDFEATHER.COM

BEST COMIC-BOOK STORE
POP COMICS
203 W. CENTER ST., ANAHEIM, (657) 208-3835; WWW.POPCOMICSHOP.COM.

BEST COSMETIC SURGEON
DR. KEVIN SADATI
359 SAN MIGUEL DR., STE. 110, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 438-2662; WWW.DRKEVINSADATI.COM.

BEST DENTIST
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3033 BRISTOL ST., STE. AA, COSTA MESA, (714) 793-0752; WWW.MYCOSTAMESADENTIST.COM.

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7680 TALBERT AVE., STES. I & H, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (855) 422-7297; WWW.PAWSCHATEAU.COM.

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218 W. THIRD ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 647-9338; WWW.DOWNTOWNSUGAR.COM.

BEST HAIR SALON
SALON MIDORI
4070 N. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 773-4070; WWW.SALONMIDORI.COM.

BEST HOTEL
PASEA HOTEL & SPA
21080 PACIFIC COAST HWY., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (888) 880-6638; WWW.MERITAGECOLLECTION.COM/PASEA-HOTEL.

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9070 IRVINE CENTER DR., STE. 135, IRVINE, (949) 371-9052; ALSO AT 22605 LA PALMA AVE., STE. 505, YORBA LINDA, (949) 371-9052, WWW.SHINLAWPC.COM.

BEST LIQUOR STORE
HI-TIME WINE CELLARS
250 OGLE ST., COSTA MESA, (949) 650-8465; WWW.HITIMEWINE.NET.

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN/ PUBLIC SERVANT
KATIE PORTER
2151 MICHELSON DR., STE. 195, IRVINE, (949) 668-6600; HOUSE.PORTER.GOV.

BEST MASSAGE
SALON MIDORI
4070 N. HARBOR BLVD., FULLERTON, (714) 773-4070; WWW.SALONMIDORI.COM.

BEST MECHANIC
LINT AUTOMOTIVE
25741 OBRERO DR., STE. C, MISSION VIEJO, (949) 273-3435; WWW.LINTAUTONOTIVE.CON

BEST NAIL SALON
APHRODITE NAILS
10971 GARDEN GROVE BLVD., GARDEN GROVE, (714) 837-8991.

BEST PET-SUPPLY STORE
ANAHEIM FEED AND PET SUPPLY
1730 N. LEMON ST., ANAHEIM, (714) 992-2012; WWW.ANAHEIMFEED.COM.

BEST PLACE FOR SHOPPING
SOUTH COAST PLAZA
3333 BRISTOL ST., COSTA MESA, (800) 782-8888; WWW.SOUTHCOASTPLAZA.COM.

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CM HURT
13159 BROOKHURST ST., GARDEN GROVE, (714) 557-2269; WWW.CMHURT.COM.

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ROBERT CASAS OF TRUSTED REALTY GROUP
701 SILK TREE, IRVINE, (714) 204-8040; WWW.ROBERTCASAS.COM.

BEST RECORD STORE
DR. FREECLOUD'S LAST RECORD STORE STANDING
9043 GARFIELD AVE., FOUNTAIN VALLEY, (657) 888-4695, WWW.DRFREECLOUDS.COM.

BEST SHOE STORE
VANS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.VANS.COM.

BEST SKATE SHOP
VANS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, WWW.VANS.COM.

BEST SURF SHOP
JACK'S SURFBOARDS
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS; WWW.JACKSSURFBOARDS.COM.

BEST TANNING SALON
TROPIC TAN
13432 NEWPORT AVE., TUSTIN, (714) 838-4050; WWW.TROPICTANTUSTIN.COM.

BEST TATTOO PARLOR
ILLUSIONS INK
1045 W. ORANGETHORPE AVE., FULLERTON, (714) 213-9873, WWW.ILLUSIONSINKHOUSE.COM.

BEST TOURIST ATTRACTION
DISNEYLAND
1313 DISNEYLAND DR., ANAHEIM, (714) 781-4636, WWW.DISNEYLAND.DISNEY GO.COM.

BEST TREND
WEED

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BEAT VAPE SHOP
ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP
15451 BEACH BLVD., WESTMINSTER, (714) 379-9020.

BEST VETERINARY PRACTICE
GREEK AND ASSOCIATES VETERINARY HOSPITAL
23687 VIA DEL RIO, YORBA LINDA, (714) 463-1190; WWW.GAVH.NET.

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OC
WEEKLY
CANNABIS
VOL 25
2019
SIT AROUND MEDITATE. THINK ABOUT IT FOR AWHILE.

THE CANNABIS COMPLIANCE FIRM

OC WEEKLY BEST OF READERS' POLL WINNER 2019

BEST OF WINNER OC WEEKLY 2018

OC WEEKLY BEST OF READERS' CHOICE WINNER 2017

VOTED BEST CANNABIS LAWYER

3 Years in a Row!

Christopher M. Glew

Chris Glew is one of the first litigators in Orange County to focus on cannabis cases. Award... Cannabis Attorney by OC Weekly, Glew is an author and speaker on all Cannabis-related topics. He has appeared on CNN, NBC, ABC, FOX and has co-hosted a radio show dedicated to broadcasting on Cannabis. He's also been featured writer for many national and local media outlets on regulatory issues for Cannabis.

Glew has advised numerous clients in Cannabis licensing all over the State of California. Acting as Lead Counsel for the State's Cannabis Association, he's also co-founder of the California Cannabis Bar Association.

CCF CANNABIS COMPLIANCE FIRM

dispensaries.com WeCann

1851 East 4th Street Suite 840 Santa Ana, CA | 866.648.0004 | CannabisComplianceFirm.com

CANNABIS

BEST BUDTENDERS

KANNABIS WORKS

What makes a good budtender? For some, the answer may be as simple as someone being personable. For others, it may be whether you feel as if you can trust their insights and recommendations while selecting which products to spend your precious dollars on. For us, it's a combination of the two, and Kannabis Works budtenders never let us down. Each budtender there goes through extensive training and is fully knowledgeable of the products they recommend, which lowers the chances you'll purchase something you'll be less than satisfied with.

2106 S. SUSAN ST., SANTA ANA, (949) 662-3960; KANNABISWORKS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: OC3

BEST CANNABIS DELIVERY

PUFFY

Here's a weird thing to think about: Kids who were born in the past year in California have only known a world in which legal cannabis can be easily delivered to your doorstep. They'll never understand the pain we felt after calling everyone we knew to try to find some Mary Jane, only to discover that apparently everyone was experiencing the same weed drought we were. Now, there's Puffy, offering same-day delivery to most of Southern California. Its products come with a guarantee that if you aren't satisfied, or if the item you've selected is defective, Puffy will gladly replace your order without you ever having to put on pants. There's a wide variety of flowers, edibles and vape products to choose from, but the star of the show is Puffy's ability to beat a lot of its peers on price while also offering unbeatable customer service and speedy delivery times. We've tried to figure out how Puffy does it, but we're better writers than entrepreneurs, so we'll just let it keep setting the bar for how delivery should be done.

PUFFYDELIVERY.COM

READERS' CHOICE: BLÜM

BEST CANNABIS LAWYER

CHRIS GLEW

With multiple Best Of mentions, Chris Glew is basically the Jack Nicholson of our annual roundup of groovy people, places and things. But Glew's years of hard work and tireless efforts to help make and keep canna-brands compliant are why he is the king when it comes to lawyers and legalization. When Johnny Law comes knocking, there are very few things you won't do to avoid penalties or incarceration, but we recommend planning ahead and giving Glew a call before you actually need to.

THE LAW OFFICES OF GLEW & KIM, 1851 E. FIRST ST., STE. 840, SANTA ANA, (714) 648-0004, WWW.GLEWKIM.LAW.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: CHRIS GLEW

BEST CBD PRODUCT

OC PHARM

As concentrates go, OC Pharm's CBD Isolate is the clearest crumble you can get on the market that doesn't get you high. This potent product is dabbable and will deliver almost-instant relief from pain, inflammation and other ailments. Containing 1,000 milligrams of relief while not producing the noticeable smell of smokable THC-based products, CBD Isolate can also be dissolved into a food or drink for those not as keen with a dab rig and a torch. It's definitely your best option to feel calm and relaxed.

OCPHARM.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PAPA & BARKLEY

BEST DISPENSARY IN LONG BEACH

SHOWGROW LONG BEACH

With a quick check-in process and the friendliest budtenders in town, ShowGrow Long Beach provides a clean, comfortable environment with exemplary customer service. Patrons can shop with peace of mind, knowing they're finding the latest cannabis and CBD products from high-quality vendors. And the outstanding selection of classic and modern strains of concentrates and flower blows the competition out of the water.

3411 E. ANAHEIM ST., LONG BEACH, (562) 494-8437, SHOWGROW.COM/LOCATIONS/LONG-BEACH/

READERS' CHOICE: SHOWGROW

BEST DISPENSARY IN OC

BLÜM

There are a lot of places where you can get your hands on some righteous buds, from Santa Ana's "Green Zone" to multiple delivery services catering to residents in cities that outlaw storefronts. However, when your jar of jazz cabbage is running low, there is no better place to visit than Blüm. The moment you enter the facility, you can feel the difference, from seeing hard-to-find products fly off the shelves to watching budtenders work tirelessly to ensure customers are getting the best possible products. Each experience we've had there has been worthy of five stars. Stop by the centrally located Blüm and take a look at its impressive selection of lab-tested concentrates and flowers—but try to avoid drooling on the display case.

2911 TECH CENTER DR., SANTA ANA, (949) 238-4203, LETSBLUM.COM.

READERS' CHOICE: OC3

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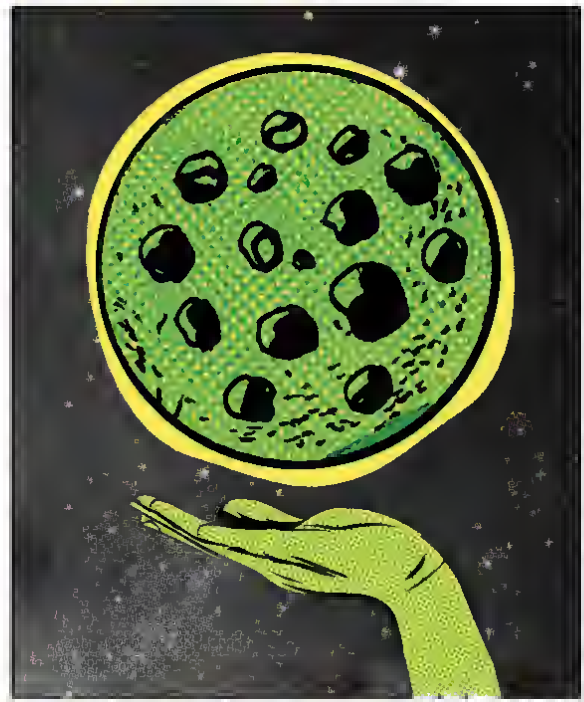
ROVEBRAND.COM/REWARDS

CANNABIS



BEST EDIBLE PRODUCT

KIVA CONFECTIONS

For all-day tripping, there is nothing better than riding the berry that is Kiva Confections' Terra Bites chocolate-covered blueberries, which come in an adorable round tin. But this year, we bestow the crown on the purveyor's Petra Mints. True, Kiva's the queen of micro-dosing, with 2.5 milligrams of THC per diamond-shaped morsel. But these vegan and sugar-free treats (warning: they contain xylitol) now come in a slew of new flavors—so all you mint-averse stoners rejoice! They are named for the ancient town of Petra in southern Jordan, which may have been settled as long ago as 9,000 BC and sits along the world's original trade routes for a front-row seat to all kinds of exotic spices and fruits. And the new flavors reflect that aromatic history: Saigon cinnamon, tart cherry, pineapple and a citrus that's CBD-only. Whether you prefer the original eucalyptus or Moroccan mint or you want to let your tongue to speed up the delightful effects!

KIVACONFECTIONS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: SMOKIEZ FRUIT CHEWS

BEST GLASSWORKS

ONE STOP SMOKE SHOP

The One Stop Smoke Shop in Huntington Beach is exactly what it says it is. Your one and only needed stop. Whether you're purchasing online or in store, this head shop has a major selection of premium products. But the glassware is truly top-of-the-line, coming from such quality makers as Noble Glass, HVY Glass, Boro Syndicate and Hitman. The shop's website not only provides information on the companies that make glass bongs, pipes, bubblers and more, but also names the specific artists who designed and crafted each one. You'll know you are buying something you're going to love to smoke out of—and be proud to display to your friends.

18582 BEACH BLVD., HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 964-3400, ONESTOPSMOKESHOPHB.COM

READERS' CHOICE: ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP

BEST HYBRID STRAIN

ALIEN LABS

With its nice, light-green color, you might imagine you are wrapping an

actual alien. But the color of Alien Labs' Area 41 is not cosmic; it was given to it by the two strains that are crossed to make it: Chemdawg and Lemon OG Kush. Both have the same physical textures, but offer contrasting effects. The hybrid Chemdawg is a very light-green, sometimes-fluffy flower with light orange hairs surrounding it underneath all of the THC that covers the surface. The indica-dominant hybrid Lemon OG is also light in color, but it has darker orange hairs and THC surrounding it. Area 41 gives a moderately heavy head high that's accompanied by a moderate body high. Not only is this a sexy strain, but it also does the job, whether you are looking to wind down, treat pain, elevate your mental abilities for whatever duty or just relax.

ALIENLABS.ORG

READERS' CHOICE: WEDDING CAKE (CLAYBOURNE CO.)

BEST HYDROPONICS SHOP

55 HYDROPONICS

55 Hydroponics caters to all the needs of individual and commercial growing operations across Orange County. The extremely knowledgeable, friendly staff offers advice from first-hand experience—there's nothing they can't answer. And the store carries a massive selection of premier products to help you keep an indoor pot (or tomato) plant happy and healthy.

1727 BOYD ST., SANTA ANA, (714) 259-7755, WWW.55HYDRO.COM

READERS' CHOICE: ORANGE COUNTY HYDROPONICS

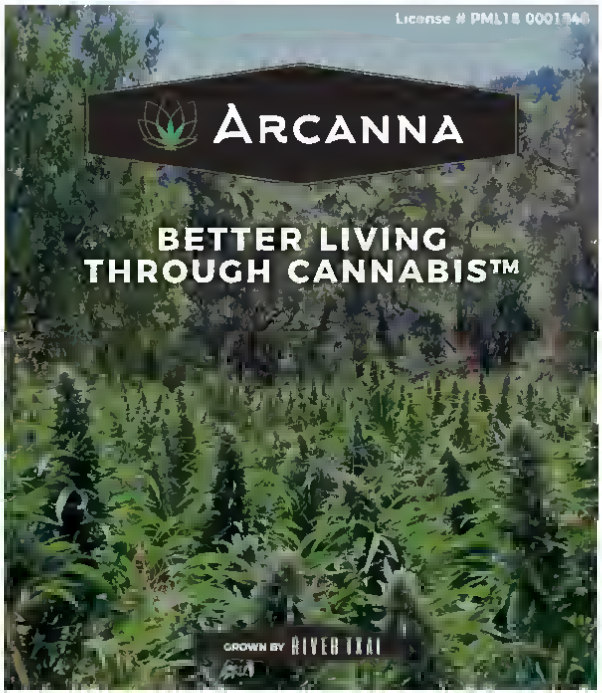
BEST INDICA STRAIN

THE VILLAGE

With a 32.6 percent THC level, the Village's Wedding Cake holds a significantly higher margin than some of the top kushes on the market. Some might label this a hybrid, but it is a heavy indica-dominant hybrid that smokes like an indica. Apparently a cross between Girl Scout Cookies and Cherry Pie, each small nugget is completely covered in white THC crystals. It has a light complexion with dark purple and orange hairs and leaves in several spots, and Wedding Cake produces a strong head high that travels down your legs. Instead of putting you to sleep, this strain adds a kick throughout your whole body.

THEVILLAGEGROWS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: WHITE TAHOE COOKIES



Long Beach Wellness Center is a state-licensed medical and recreational dispensary located in Long Beach, California. Since opening in April 2018, our goal has been to provide a diverse menu that offers quality and affordable products to our customers; to do so, we work with top-tier companies in the cannabis industry. As a medical and recreational dispensary, we understand that the needs of our customers vary. For this reason, we offer not only great THC products, but also a variety of CBD products. A family-run business, we are proud to be embedded in the Long Beach community and look forward to what the future of this industry will bring.

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CANNABIS

BEST LAB TESTING

CANNALYSIS LABS

Located in the heart of Santa Ana, Cannalysis has been providing the state's cannabis industry with accurate data and lab testing since opening its doors in March 2016. The Cannalysis facility sets the standard for compliance, using state-of-the-art technology to ensure that your edibles, flowers and concentrates contain no traces of harsh metals, microbial bacteria or mycotoxins that can prove fatal. With easy-to-understand results as well as a fully integrated system that allows companies to upload QR codes linking to tests, Cannalysis obviously takes home the gold when it comes to lab testing.

1801 CARNEGIE AVE., SANTA ANA, (949) 329-8378; WWW.CANNALYSISLABS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: CANNALYSIS

BEST LIVE RESIN

MOXIE

Rising above the rest, with fat clouds and tangy terps, Moxie Live Resin Sauce is an easy favorite. Each sticky, crystal-coated, high-quality sauce comes beautifully packaged in a small, airtight glass jar. Although a heavy hitter, Chernobyl won't have dabbers coughing up a lung. This tasty, smooth hybrid is highly potent, with uplifting and euphoric effects.

WWW.MOXIE710.COM

READERS' CHOICE: STRAWBERRY BANANA (CRESCO LABS)

BEST MEDICATED BEVERAGE

DIXIE ELIXIRS

Ease your stresses away with Dixie Elixirs. Available in a variety of flavors—including cherry limeade, fruit punch and berry lemonade—these medicated beverages offer 100 milligrams of finely extracted THC and bliss. For only $20, you can experience something that tastes good, is refreshing and will leave you stoned off your ass—although the potency may have you raiding your fridge.

DIXIEELIXIRS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: G BRAND LEMONADE

BEST MOON ROCK PRODUCT

CAVIAR GOLD

The Misty OG Kush offered by Caviar Gold will leave inexperienced smokers feeling as if they're on the moon. The flower is dipped in 95 percent THC-potent wax concentrate and covered in kief, resulting in a leaf that's evolved from 28 percent THC to nearly 50 percent. The high is a dominant indica, which means you're going to feel it all in your head. Though you might believe you're now part of the chair you're sitting on, you're also going to want to kick back and listen to music or have a good conversation with a friend. And while your deep thoughts could be filled with dabble and nonsense, this moon rock will ensure you won't care.

WWW.CAVIARGOLD.COM

READERS' CHOICE: DR. ZODIAK'S MOONROCK

BEST MUNCHIES SPOT

SGT. PEPPERONI'S PIZZA STORE

It's a classic scenario: You are stoned to the bone, and everything is going good—until that familiar pang forms in the pit of your stomach, telling you it's time to refuel. The munchies is a side effect that most of us could do without, but to combat it, one spot rules them all with an iron fist. Sgt. Pepperoni's has been dishing out delicious pies since the mid-1970s, and if we have it our way, it'll be around long after our doctors put us on a strict diet (noooooooo!). From its ever-popular garlic knots to its signature New York-style slices, Sgt. Pepp's has something on the menu for even the pickiest of eaters. And make sure you bring along some quarters because you'll definitely spend a few extra minutes trying to beat the high score on the impossibly difficult Beatles-themed pinball machine.

2300 SE BRISTOL ST., STE. F, NEWPORT BEACH, (949) 852-9500, SGTPEPPS.COM

BEST PATIENT APPRECIATION DAY

OC3 DISPENSARY

With daily deals and special-event steals, OC3 Dispensary regularly shows how much it loves its customers! Don't miss out on opportunities to earn redeemable points and generous free samples.

3122 NALLADAY ST., SANTA ANA, STE. A, (714) 754-1348, OCDISPENSARY.COM

READERS' CHOICE: OC3

BEST PET CBD PRODUCTS

TOP DOG BARKERY

Setting itself apart from the local pet stores, Top Dog Barkery stocks incredible treats and goodies for your four-legged best friend, from the delicious (pet pastries baked in-house) to the holistic (essential oils for dogs). So, it's no wonder this place also provides its own blend of cannabinoid snacks for pooches. Each of its beef-flavored soft chews is made with all-natural, non-GMO ingredients and infused with 2 milligrams of CBD oil (and zero THC, the active hallucinogen commonly found in weed)—perfect for the occasional stress relief or as a regular dose to soothe persistent anxiety. Still unsure whether pet CBD is right for your pup? The crew at Top Dog are ready to field all your questions and provide the best advice.

21010 PACIFIC COAST HWY., STE. A-160, HUNTINGTON BEACH, (714) 960-3647, TOPDOGBARKERY.NET

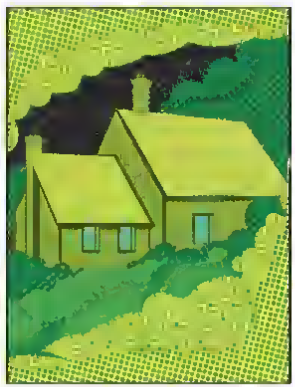
READERS' CHOICE: VET CBD

BEST PLACE TO GET LIT

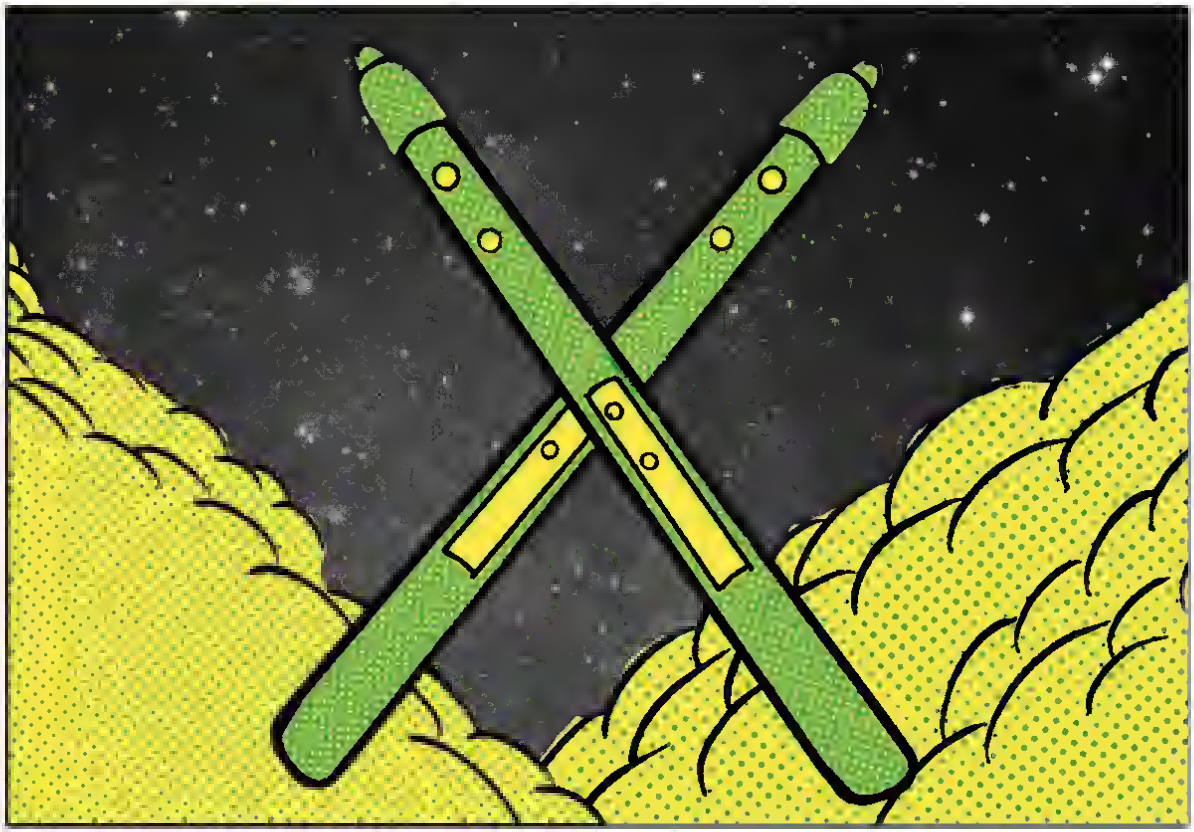
EVERYWHERE

For years, we've chuckled at the idea of blazing a joint the size of Mickey's weird thumb while exploring the Disneyland Resort theme parks on a warm afternoon, but with legalization in full swing, it's time for us to recognize that even non-smoking soccer moms are now using CBD in their daily beauty and health regimens. In the past two years, we've found hemp water available in airports and dispensaries offering ride services to elderly clients. Cannabis is hardly the provocative symbol of counterculture it used to be. So go ahead. Light up that joint just before the board meeting or take a dab outside your child's recital because everyone is doing it—and sometimes it's the only way to get through a terrible school play. And when the areas we lovingly refer to as "flyover states" complain about how mellow we are in California, we'll be too stoned to care.

READERS' CHOICE: HOME



CANNABIS



BEST PREROLL PRODUCT

GOODBRANDS

After spending hours cooped up in your office, battling traffic and being forced to attend another mandatory meeting with your lame coworkers, the last thing you want to do when you clock out is more work. For us, the only way to properly manage the daily stress of life and all of our nonstop deadlines is to relax the geeen way with some of nature's finest flowers. We're too busy doing "work" to bother rolling our own joints—and to be honest, our finished product just doesn't cut the mustard seed, especially when there are expertly rolled jays readily available at every dispensary in California. Luckily, when the clock reads 4:20 at the *Weekly* offices, there's a product we can trust to always deliver a cerebral rush of euphoric bliss. Using sustainable products and techniques, goodbrands absolutely sets the standard for how a cannabis company should operate. And with plenty of strains to choose from, you'll have no problem understanding why its GoodJoint prerolls disappear faster than the time it took for you to read this.

WWW.GOODBRANDSCO.COM

READERS' CHOICE: LOWELL HERB CO.

BEST SATIVA STRAIN

CANNDESCENT

A blissful burst of clear-headed energy in the form of some of the most expertly crafted flowers we've ever come across is what you can expect from Canndescent each time you manage to get your hands on an eighth. The bright-orange box housing its signature strains has been around the *Weekly* offices for a while, and we hope to collect a few more whenever the company gets around to creating another award-winning mix of terpene-rich buds for us to enjoy. Any time you want to capture that euphoric feeling of laughing until you cry or finally finishing that novel you've been working on, then its most sativa-esque and aptly named Charge 508 is for you.

WWW.CANNDESCENT.COM

READERS' CHOICE: SUPER SOUR DIESEL

BEST SHATTER

KINGS GARDEN

Operating out of Coachella Valley, Kings Garden distributes some of the best shatter to the Orange County area. Providing a mellow, clear-headed high, the company's live shatter in the Dreamweaver strain boasts some tasty terps. An earthy hybrid with high levels of THC, this smooth-hitting Royal Concentrate produces an effect that is sure to have dabbers grinning.

WWW.KINGSGARDENINC.COM

READERS' CHOICE: MOXIE

BEST SMOKE SHOP

QUICK STOP SMOKE SHOP

The family-owned Quick Stop Smoke Shop has everything for your cannabis needs and is constantly adding new products to adapt to the modern stoner market. Products are locally sourced, and the store sells glass from both locals and big-timers, though the majority is created in-shop. The staff also lead glass-blowing demonstrations to teach people more about the craft.

1718 N. TUSTIN ST., ORANGE, (714) 974-0800, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/QUICKSTOPSMOKESHOPS

READERS' CHOICE: ZIGGY'S SMOKE SHOP

BEST SMOKING DEVICE

PUFFCO

The term *game-changer* gets thrown around a lot these days to say a product is miles

above its peers, but the Peak vaporizer from Puffco is just that. Concentrates have met their perfect match when you combine Peak's technology with your favorite crumble, wax or hudder; the results will have you floating through time and space in euphoric bliss. Smoking concentrates the correct way requires constant regulation of temperature and pressure, and the Peak keeps your bowl at a steady temperature to provide you with the cleanest, most enjoyable experience while filtering out some of the less desirable effects often associated with products that boast high levels of THC. The device is designed to give you all of the goods without sending you to bed early.

WWW.PUFFCO.COM

BEST TINCTURE

PAPA & BARKLEY

For easing pain and inflammation in your whole body in a super-speedy method that doesn't attack lungs with smoke or vapor, Papa & Barkley's Releaf Tincture is the tops. Made with MCT oil for fast absorption, you can hold drops under your tongue or, for a more leisurely onset, plop them into a cocktail. Three options provide the ideal ratio for your chosen level of intoxication. 1 CBD to 3 THC for moderate psychoactivity; 1 to 1 for inducing mild psychoactivity; or 30 to 1 for no high at all. The stopper is clearly labeled, so dosing is consistent. Papa & Barkley is expert at taking the edge off in the nicest way possible. You will become smooth, your attitude will adjust. All will be right with the world—well, you know what we mean. Releaf Tincture is the antidote to gaslighting and will restore your powers to resist, replace and repair. We recommend keeping all three ratios in your medicine cabinet, on your drug tray or whatever you've got as a home apothecary.

PAPAANDBARKLEY.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PAPA & BARKLEY

BEST TOPICAL PRODUCT

INDICREME

For cannabis-infused pain relief, your go-to products should be indiCREME's Wellness Original topicals. Massage the pain away with the brand's thick CBD cream, which is targeted to ease your muscles from within. It contains no THC and is non-GMO, gluten-free, alcohol-less and paraben-free. It's indiCREME's all-natural hemp-seed oil that does wonders for backs, knees and other painful joints—without any psychoactive effects!

(855) 925-5550; SOOTHEEN.COM

READERS' CHOICE: PAPA & BARKLEY

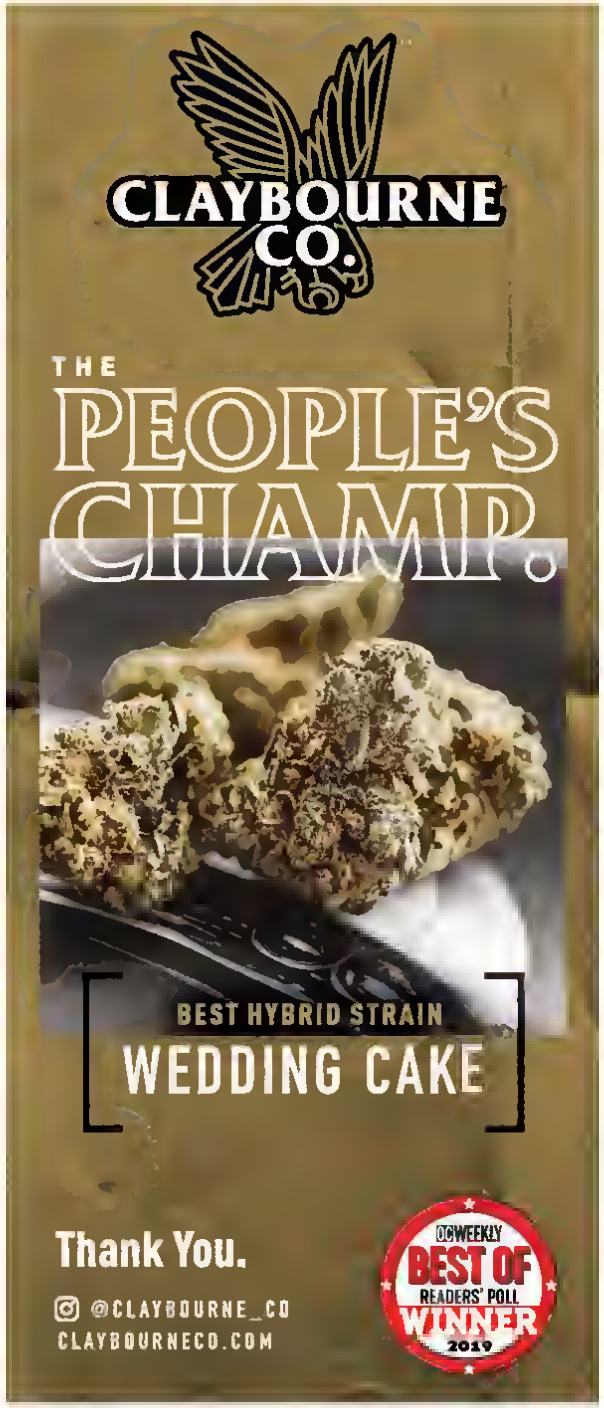
BEST VAPE MAKER

SHERBINSKIS

There are many ways to reach cult status within the cannabis industry, but the most straightforward approach has to be letting your product speak for itself. Mr. Sherbinski, along with his selection of premium flowers and concentrates, has been skipping the small talk for loud results. Rooted in San Francisco and coveted by some of today's pickiest of smokers, Sherbinskis holds its own in a sea of copycats. The pens come loaded with a full gram of the company's highly coveted gelato strains, which boast impressive, lab-tested levels of THC that most brands can only dream of achieving. Ditch those cheap, plastic vape pens and reach for one that has the stopping power of a 2-ton truck.

WWW.SHERBINSKIS.COM

READERS' CHOICE: HEAVY HITTERS



C10-0000207-LIC

BUDTENDERS
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Toke of the Week

» JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

Hi-Sicles by LOL

COURTESY OF LOL EDIBLES

When I was younger, every trip to the grocery store with my mother was an exercise in patience. As she busied herself with selecting products that would nourish her family, I was busy finding the item that I would later beg her to purchase with empty promises of finished chores and going to bed on time. Among my favorite things to haggle over were Otter Pops. Just about every child in America knew these frozen treats—with flavors such as Poncho Punch or Louie-bloo Raspberry—were used as currency to settle disputes, pay off debts or show someone you cared. The problem with those neon-colored sugar sticks, though, was that they were never stored in the frozen food section, so after they were purchased, you had to wait several hours once you got home for the liquid to freeze. That's basically a year in kid-time!

LOL edibles has captured the essence of every kid's experience by introducing its own line of ice pops, but for its Hi-Sicles ($25.95), Little Orphan Orange has been adopted and replaced with a THC-rich orange creamsicle flavor. Now, whenever the temperature goes above 90 degrees, you can cool off *and* mellow out by enjoying one or three of these frosty novelties. By the time you've finished your stroll down memory lane, you'll be higher than the cost of health care in the United States.

Fun fact: Otter Pops' Sir Isaac Lime was almost discontinued and replaced by Scarlett O'Cherry in 1995 until a group of fourth-graders in Orange County successfully petitioned for his return by protesting at the company's headquarters. Go us! You can celebrate their historic achievement by stocking your freezer with these THC-laced throwbacks to our childhood.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

Available at Mr. Nice Guy, 730 E. Dyer Rd., Santa Ana, (714) 477-6892.

SEE MORE INDUSTRY NEWS AND REVIEWS AT OCWEEKLY.COM/CANNABIS

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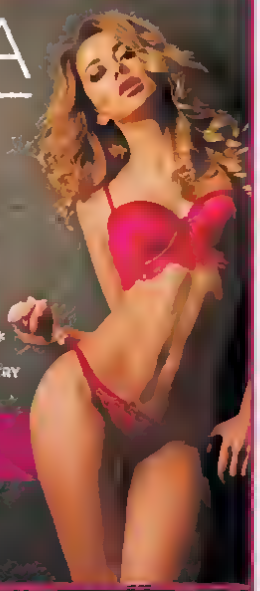

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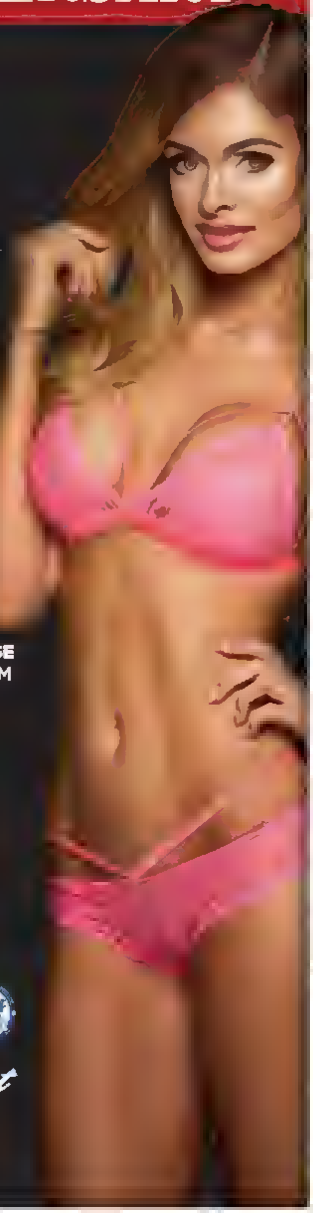

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Quickies

Editor's Note: *Thanks to an early press deadline, we are running a "classic" Savage Love column, originally published in our Oct. 12, 2018, issue. A brand spankin' new column can be found at ocweekly.com.*

I was involved with a straight man who enjoys cross-dressing and taking explicit photos. The problem is that the props he uses belong to his three children, all younger than age 12. For example, he dressed up as a slutty schoolgirl and wore his daughter's backpack. He dressed up as a slutty cowgirl and posed with his son's stuffed horse, he even had the horse eating his "carrot." I told him he should not use his children's things as props. He believes that his children will never see the photos, so no harm will come of it. He posts them on Instagram and Facebook, so they aren't private, and he can't control where they go. It's one of the reasons I ended the relationship. Is there anything I can say to him?

Canceled Definitely Promising Relationship Over Photo Sessions

You told him what he's doing is wrong, you explained the enormous risk he's running, and you dumped him, COPROPS. You could take one last run at it and try to explain that his children finding these photos isn't one of those "low-risk, high-consequence events," i.e., something that's unlikely to happen but would be utterly disastrous if it did. Nope, if he's posting these photos online, at least one of his children will stumble over them—or one of their friends will. Your ex needs to knock this shit off, and he'll most likely need the help of a mental health pro in order to do so.

My parents were married for almost 40 years. They rarely fought and were an example of a strong, monogamous marriage until the day my mother died. Recently, I found writings by my dad revealing he had several casual encounters with men over the course of their marriage. Do I tell him I know? What should I do with this information, if anything?

A Deeply Upsetting Era That Sucks

Well, now you know their relationship wasn't perfect—no relationship is. Your mother is dead (I'm sorry for your loss), and either she made peace with this fact about her husband long ago or she never knew about it. Either way, no good will come from confronting your father about the handful of dicks he sucked decades ago.

I'm a 47-year-old virgin straight man. What advice can you give me on losing my virginity?

Wanting And Hoping

There are lots of 40-year old-and-older women out there who are virgins—they write in, too—so putting "middle-aged virgin seeks same" in your personal ad wouldn't be a bad idea. Find someone in your same situation, WAH, and treat her with kindness, gentleness and patience—the same as you would like to be treated.

I'm married and poly, with one partner in addition to my husband. My partner has a friend-with-benefits arrangement with a woman he's been with since before we met. The FWB is not poly, but she's always been my partner's. She has always insisted they're not a couple, but he knows she would be hurt if she found out he was with someone else, so he has avoided telling her he's now also with me. I don't like being someone's secret. My husband knows I'm with someone else and is fine with it. If my partner's FWB felt the same, I wouldn't see a problem. But this feels oddly like I'm helping my partner cheat on his FWB.

Pretty Obviously Lost, Yeah

It's not cheating—it's plausible deniability. Your partner's FWB would rather not know he's seeing anyone else, so she doesn't ask him about his other partners and he doesn't tell. Accommodating his FWB's desire not to know about other partners—doing the DADT open thing—does mean keeping you a secret, POLY, at least from her. If you're not comfortable with that, you'll have to end things with your partner.

I'm scared of two things. (1) I'm scared that if I break up with my girlfriend of four years, I will be throwing away the best thing I will ever have because I'm scared that I don't love her in the way she deserves (in the way people say you will "just know" about) or because we have normal relationship problems and both have our own mental-health issues. (2) I'm also scared that if I don't break up with her, I am keeping her in a relationship that is not good because of my fear of never finding someone as good as her, and we would both actually be happier with someone else.

Scared Of Being Alone

1. Nobody "just knows," SOBA, and everyone has doubts—that's why commitments are *made* (consciously entered into) and are not some sort of romantic or sexual autopilot that kicks in when we meet the "perfect" person. We commit and recommit and forgive and muddle through—but when we're asked about our relationships, we tend to lean on clichés such as "It was love at first sight," "I just knew," "The One"—clichés that often fill others with doubt about the quality of their relationships.

2. Get on iTunes and download the original Broadway cast recordings of *Company*, *Follies* and *A Little Night Music*. Pay particular attention to "Sorry-Grateful," "The Road You Didn't Take" and "Send in the Clowns."

If I write you a letter asking for advice and don't want it published, even anonymously, will you answer?

Keeping It Confidential, 'Kay?

While I can't respond to every letter I receive, KICK, I do sometimes respond privately. Just one request: If you send a letter that you don't want published, please mention that at the start. I will frequently read an extremely long letter—so long that I start making notes or contacting experts before I finish reading it—only to discover "please don't publish this" at the bottom. If a letter isn't for publication, please mention that at the beginning. I promise that doing so increases your chances of getting a private response.

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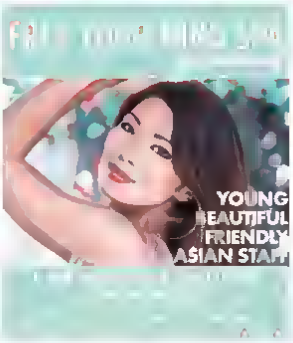
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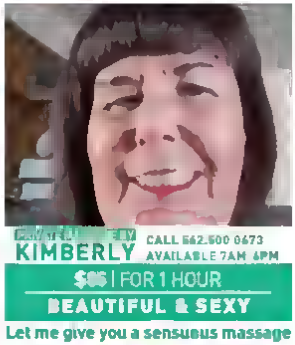
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2) Mr. Hemang Ramniklal Thakkar, Age about 53 years, a Hindu, Mumbai Indian Inhabitant, residing at Flat No. 8 & 9, Heena -Shruti, N. S. Road No.2, Juhu Scheme, Vile Parle, Mumbai-400056, Both being the executors named under the Last Will and Testament of the Deceased abovenamed

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